

## DHYAN CHAND

Dhyan Chand made India a superpower in world hockey, in pre-independence days. Overcoming great odds with indomitable courage, discipline and skill, he rose from humble beginnings to become the greatest figure in the sport.

Under his leadership, India humbled the Europeans who were till then regarded as masters of the game and then went on to conquer all global hockey powers. The world still remembers how the Indian team gave the Nazis a bloody nose, when he led it to an 8-1 victory over the aggressive German side in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

The story of Dhyan Chand is the story of Indian hockey at its very best. The game defined his personality and his life. He strove for the glory of his country, desiring nothing for himself. India reigned supreme in hockey during Dhyan's playing years and for some decades afterwards, earning the country the respect of the world.

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FREEDOM STRUGGLE



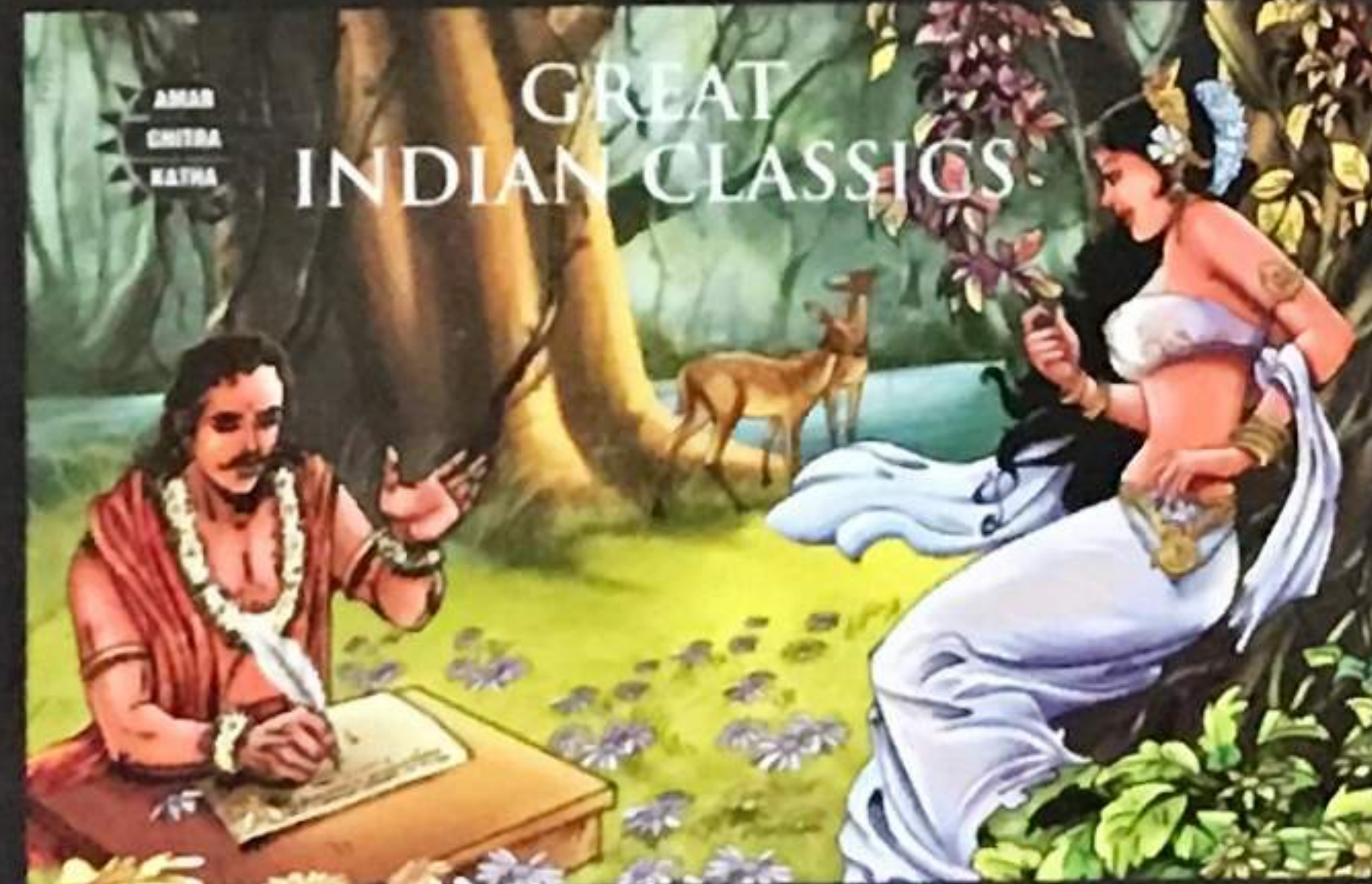
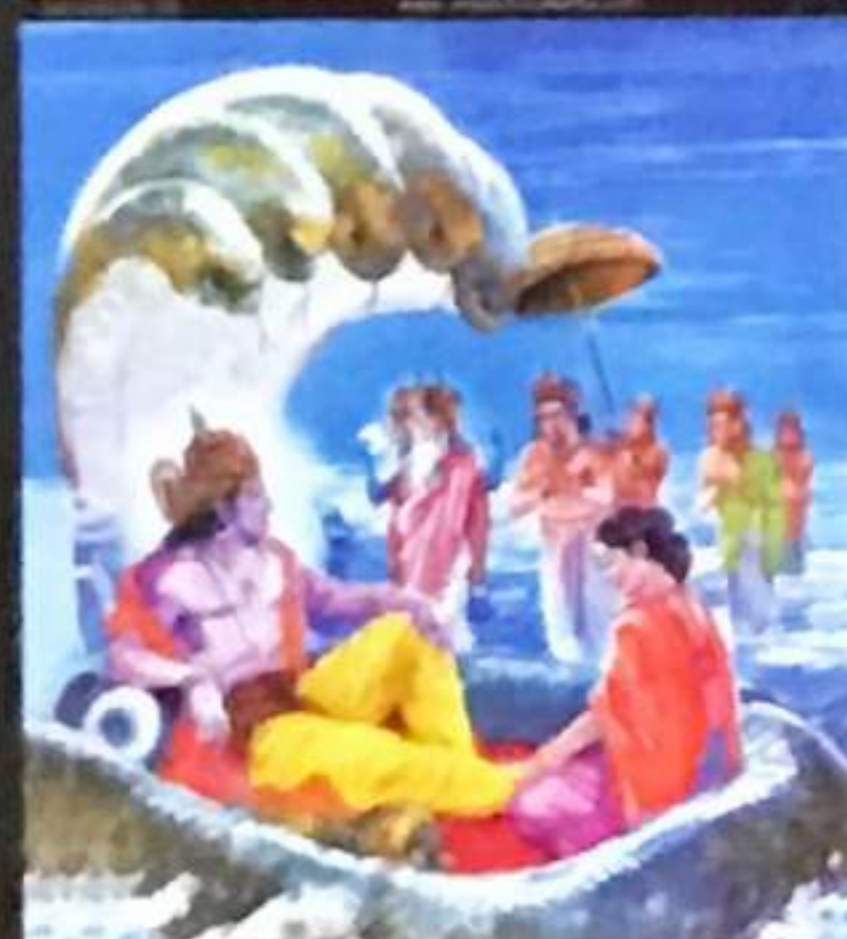
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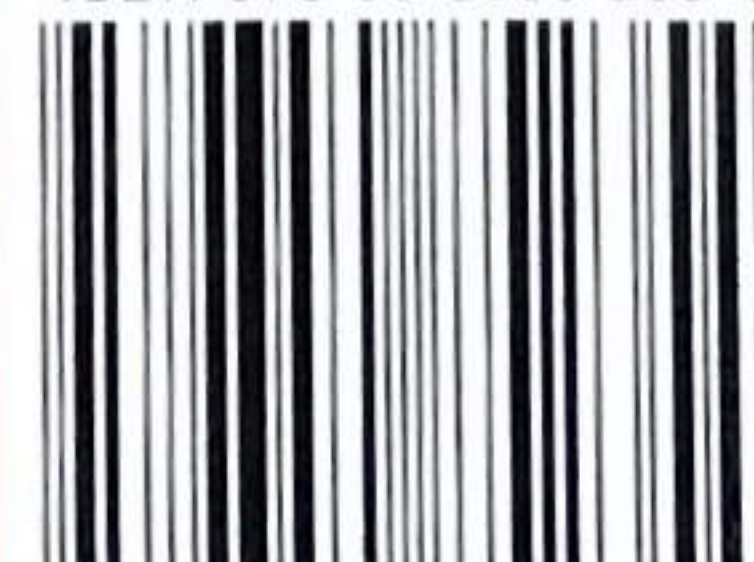
# DHYAN CHAND

THE WIZARD OF HOCKEY



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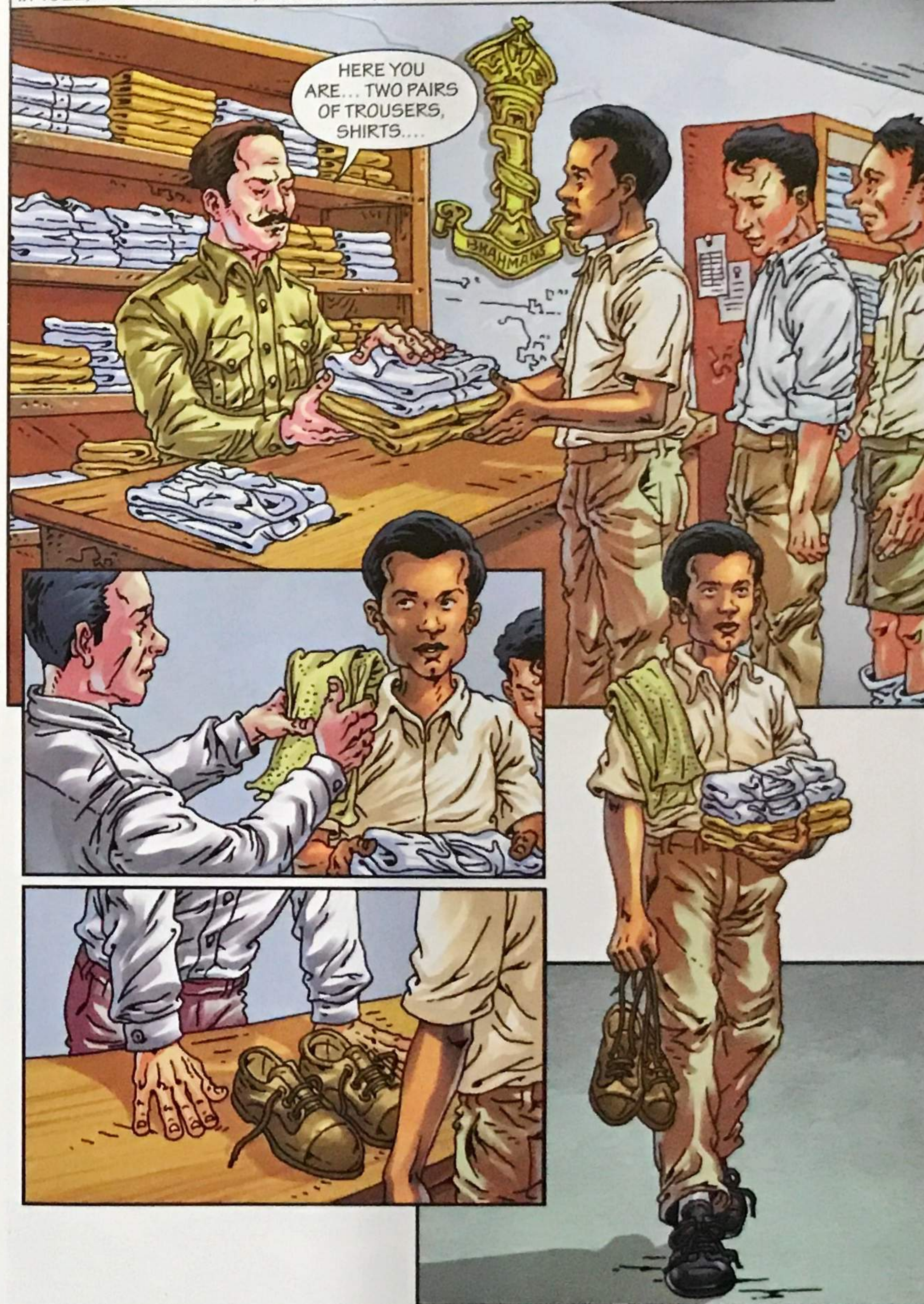
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DHYAN CHAND

IN 1922, A 16-YEAR-OLD BOY, DHYAN SINGH, ENLISTED IN THE FIRST BRAHMANS REGIMENT IN DELHI.





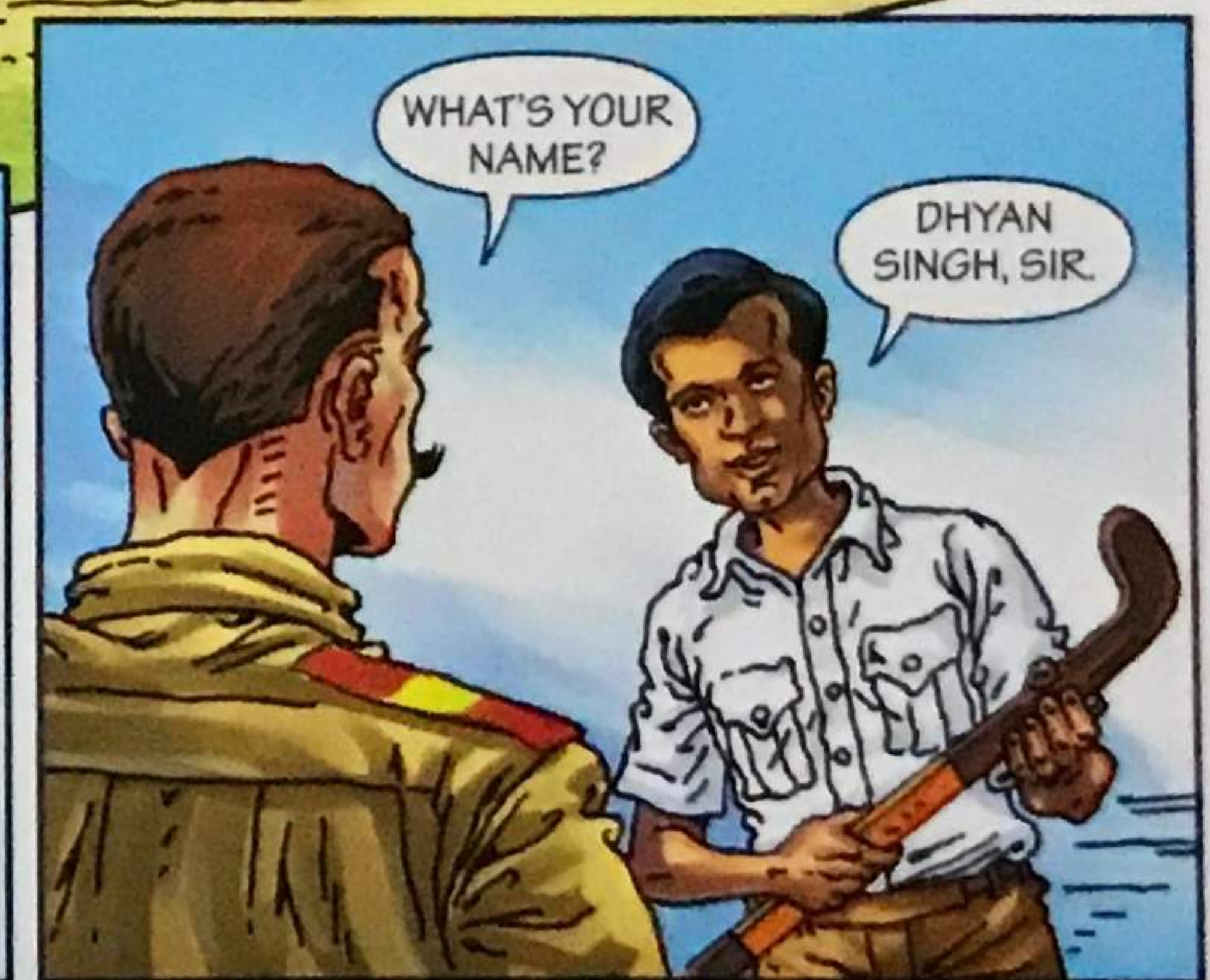
THE REGIMENT WAS KNOWN FOR ITS HOCKEY TEAM, AND SOON DHYAN WAS DRAWN INTO THE GAME.



AS BOYS IN JHANSI, WE WOULD SOMETIMES HIT A BALL ALONG THE STREETS BUT NOT ALWAYS WITH HOCKEY STICKS!



DHYAN HAD A FLAIR FOR THE GAME AND THIS WAS SOON NOTED BY ONE OF HIS SUPERIORS, SUBEDAR-MAJOR BALE TIWARI, A HOCKEY ENTHUSIAST AND A FINE PLAYER HIMSELF.

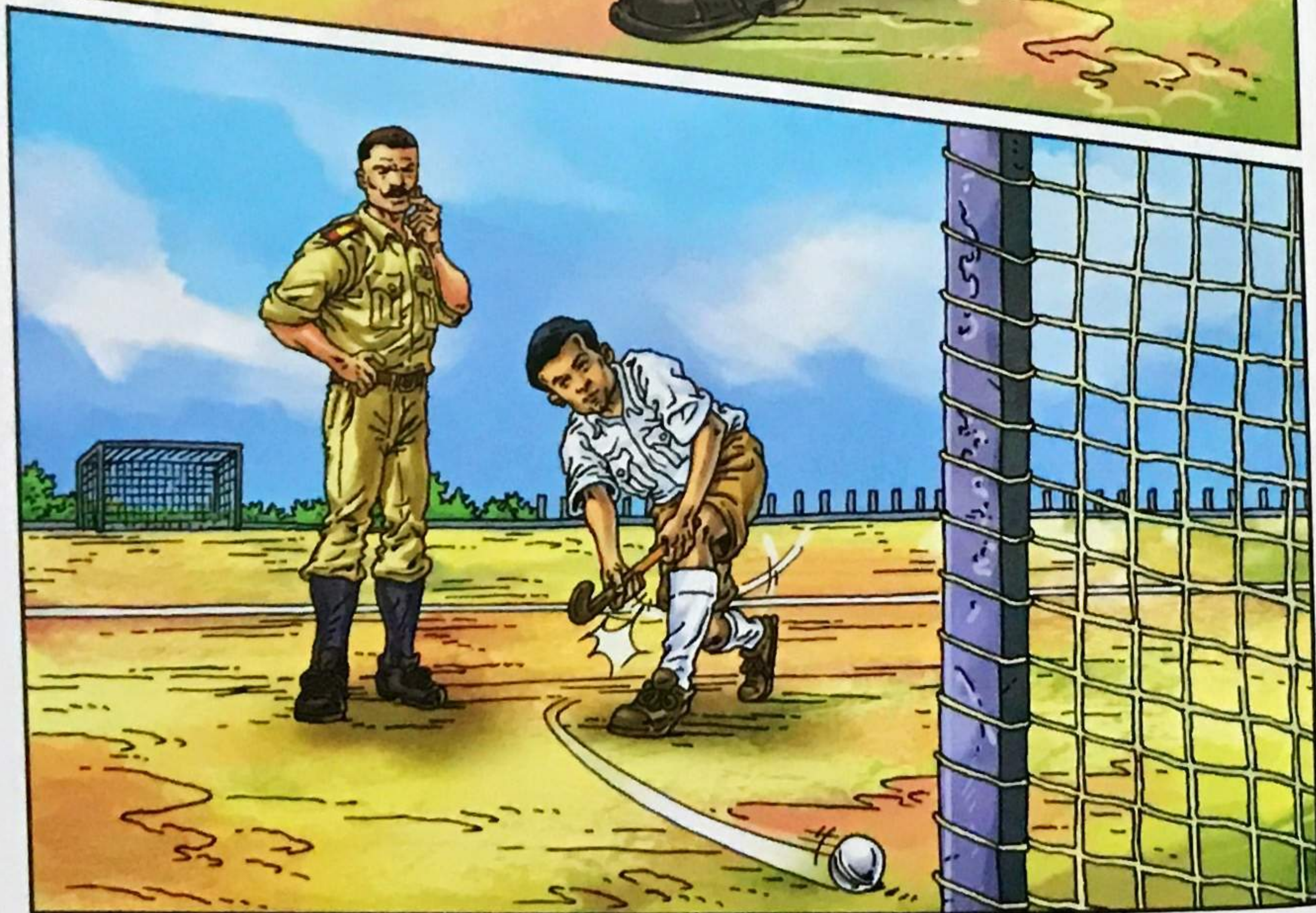




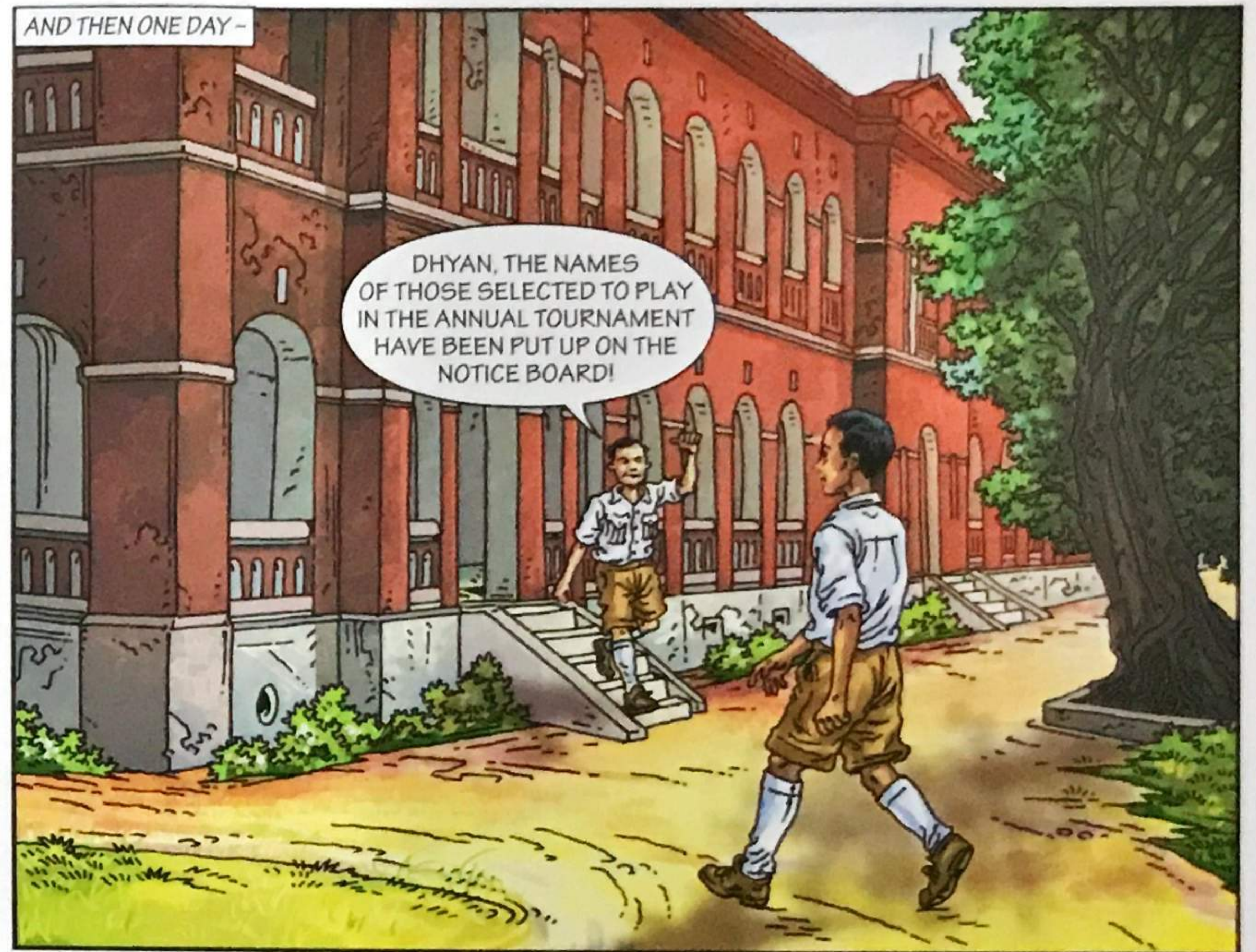




WITH TIWARI COACHING HIM, DHYAN'S NATURAL TALENT FOR THE GAME BEGAN TO FLOWER.



AND THEN ONE DAY -



THE ANNUAL MILITARY HOCKEY TOURNAMENT WAS AN EVENT THAT EVERYONE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO. HOCKEY TEAMS FROM DIFFERENT REGIMENTS PARTICIPATED AND THERE WAS KEEN RIVALRY.

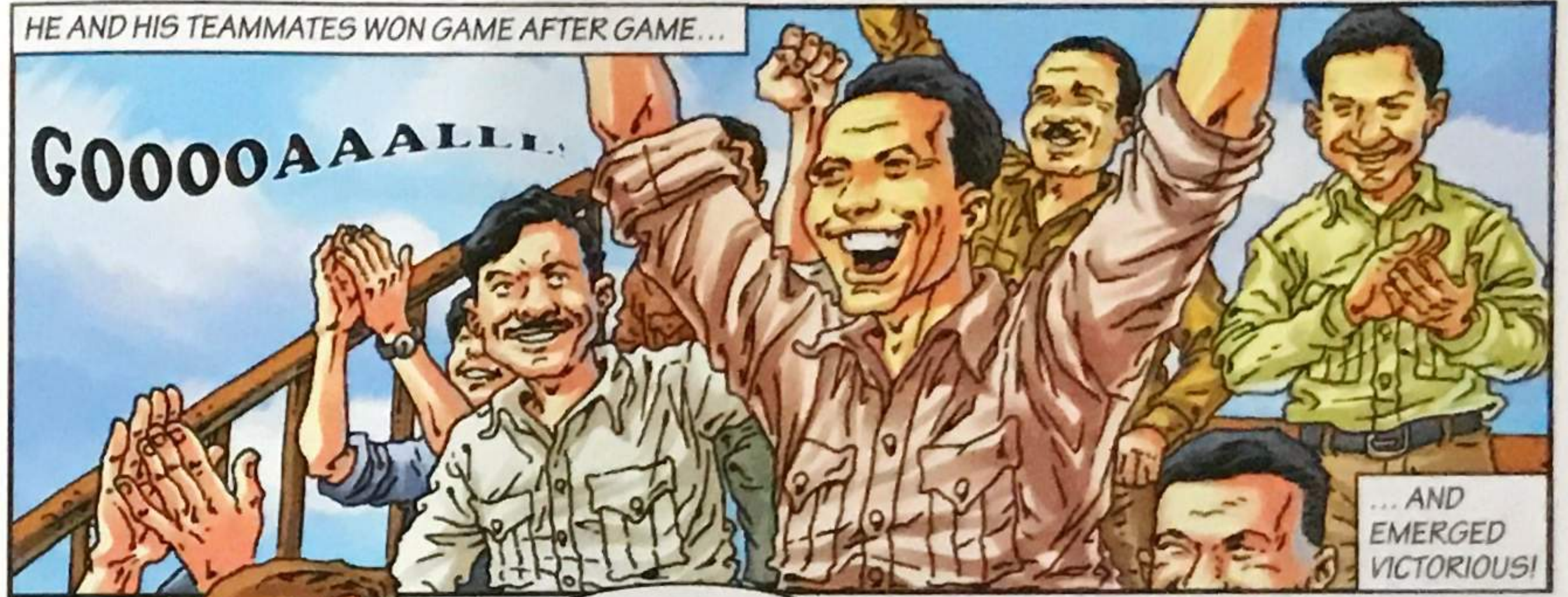




A FORTNIGHT LATER, DHYAN WAS PLAYING HIS FIRST BIG MATCH.



HE AND HIS TEAMMATES WON GAME AFTER GAME...



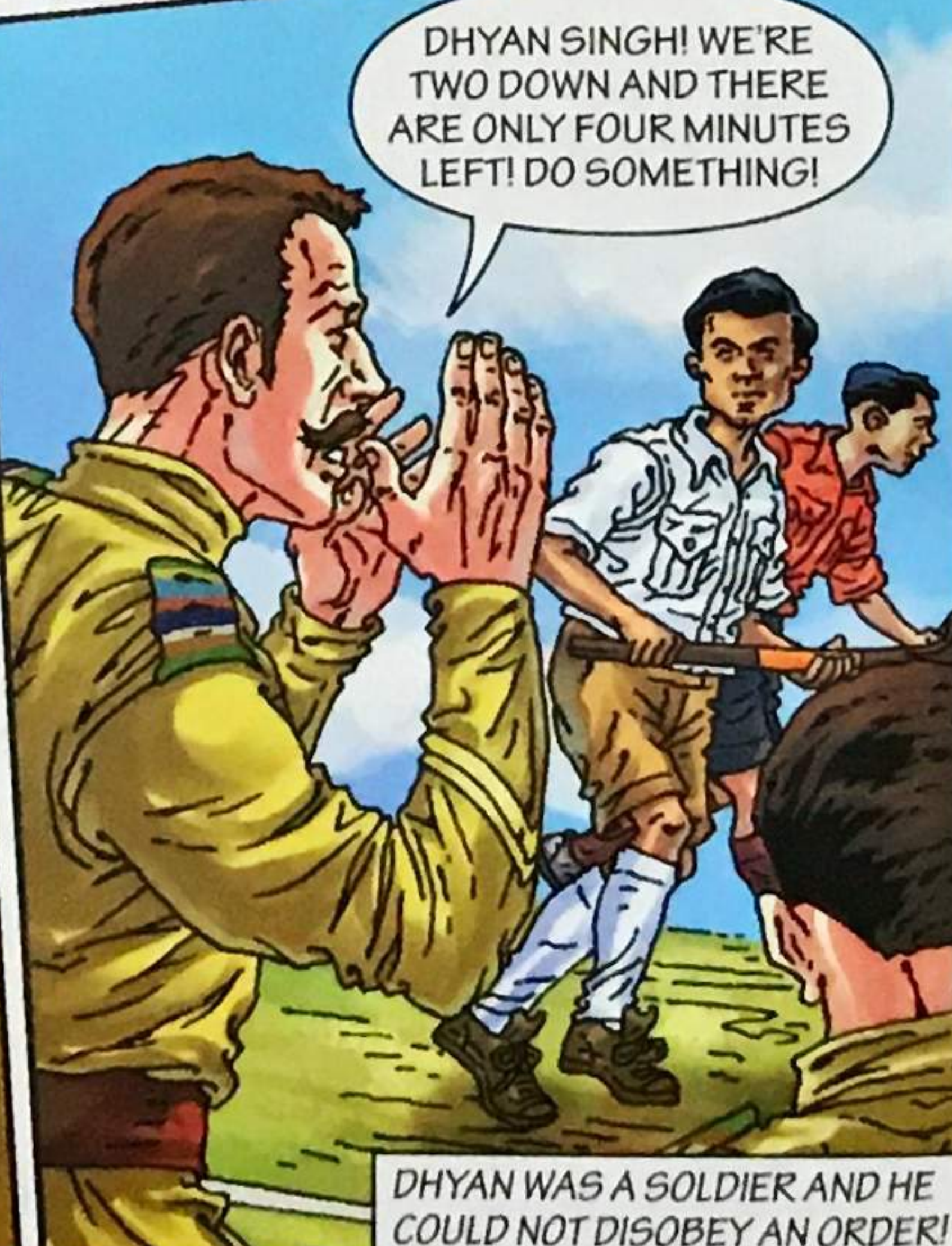
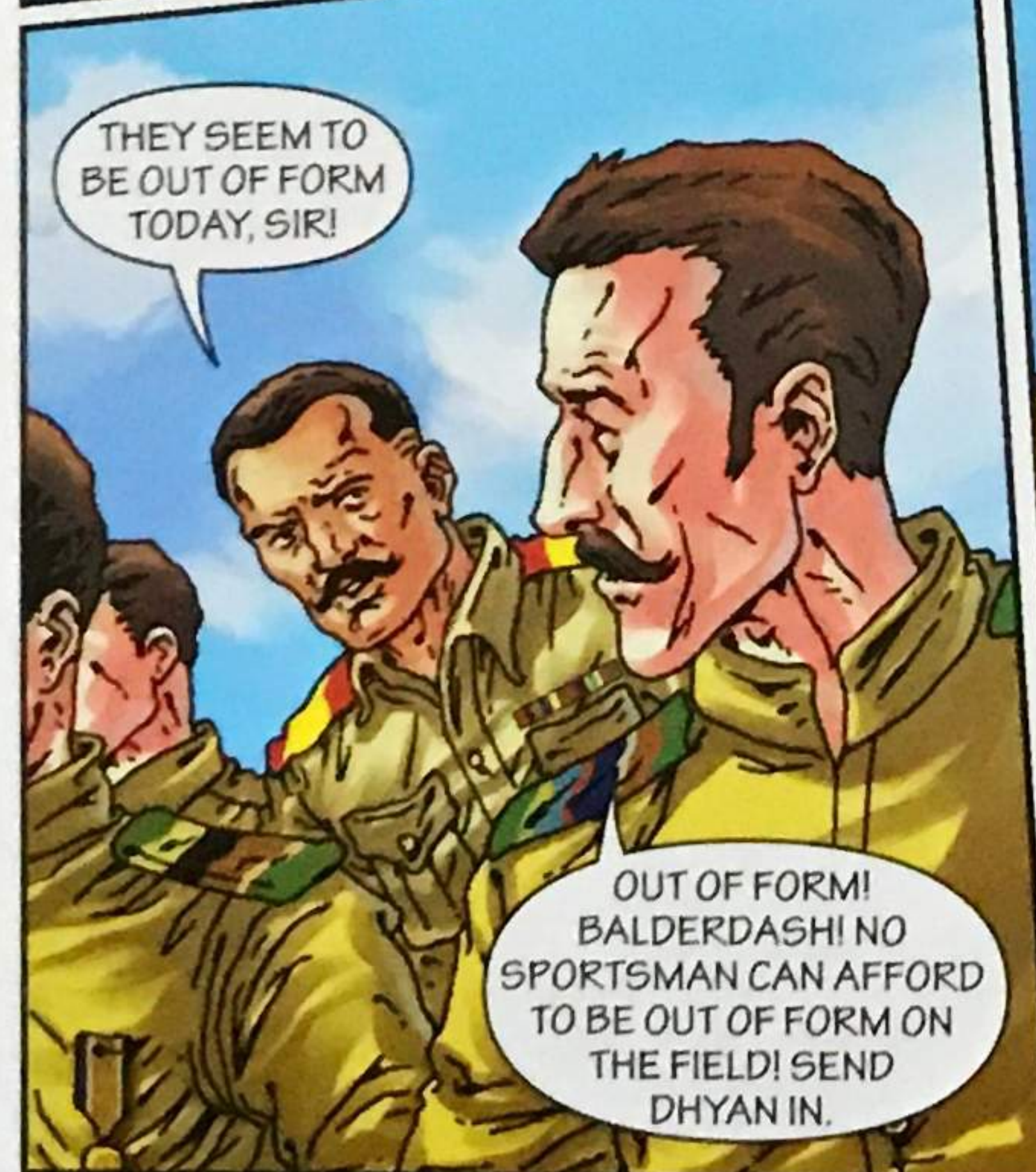


THE SEPOYS OF THE REGIMENT WOULD GO TO BED DEAD TIRED, BUT ONE AMONG THEM SEEMED TIRELESS.





DHYAN TOOK PART IN ALL THE ARMY TOURNAMENTS. EVEN THE BRITISH OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT REALISED THAT HE WAS A GIFTED PLAYER. ONCE, IN 1925, WHEN HIS REGIMENT WAS PLAYING IN THE PUNJAB INDIAN INFANTRY TOURNAMENT -



DHYAN WAS A SOLDIER AND HE COULD NOT DISOBEY AN ORDER!

GETTING HOLD OF THE BALL, HE PILOTTED IT DOWN THE FIELD, ZIG-ZAGGING PAST PLAYER AFTER PLAYER...





AND JUST BEFORE  
THE FINAL WHISTLE -



HE'S DONE IT!  
WE'VE WON!

YOU'RE A WIZARD,  
MY BOY, A HOCKEY  
WIZARD! THERE'S NO  
ONE LIKE YOU!

THREE CHEERS FOR  
DHYAN CHAND!



ONE DAY IN MARCH, 1926 -



WHAT'S GOING  
ON? WHAT'S ALL  
THE EXCITEMENT  
ABOUT?

THE ARMY IS SENDING  
A HOCKEY TEAM TO NEW  
ZEALAND TO PLAY AGAINST  
CIVILIAN TEAMS THERE!

YOU STAND A GOOD  
CHANCE, DHYAN. BUT YOU  
MUST GET ONE OF THE  
ENGLISH OFFICERS TO  
SPEAK FOR YOU.



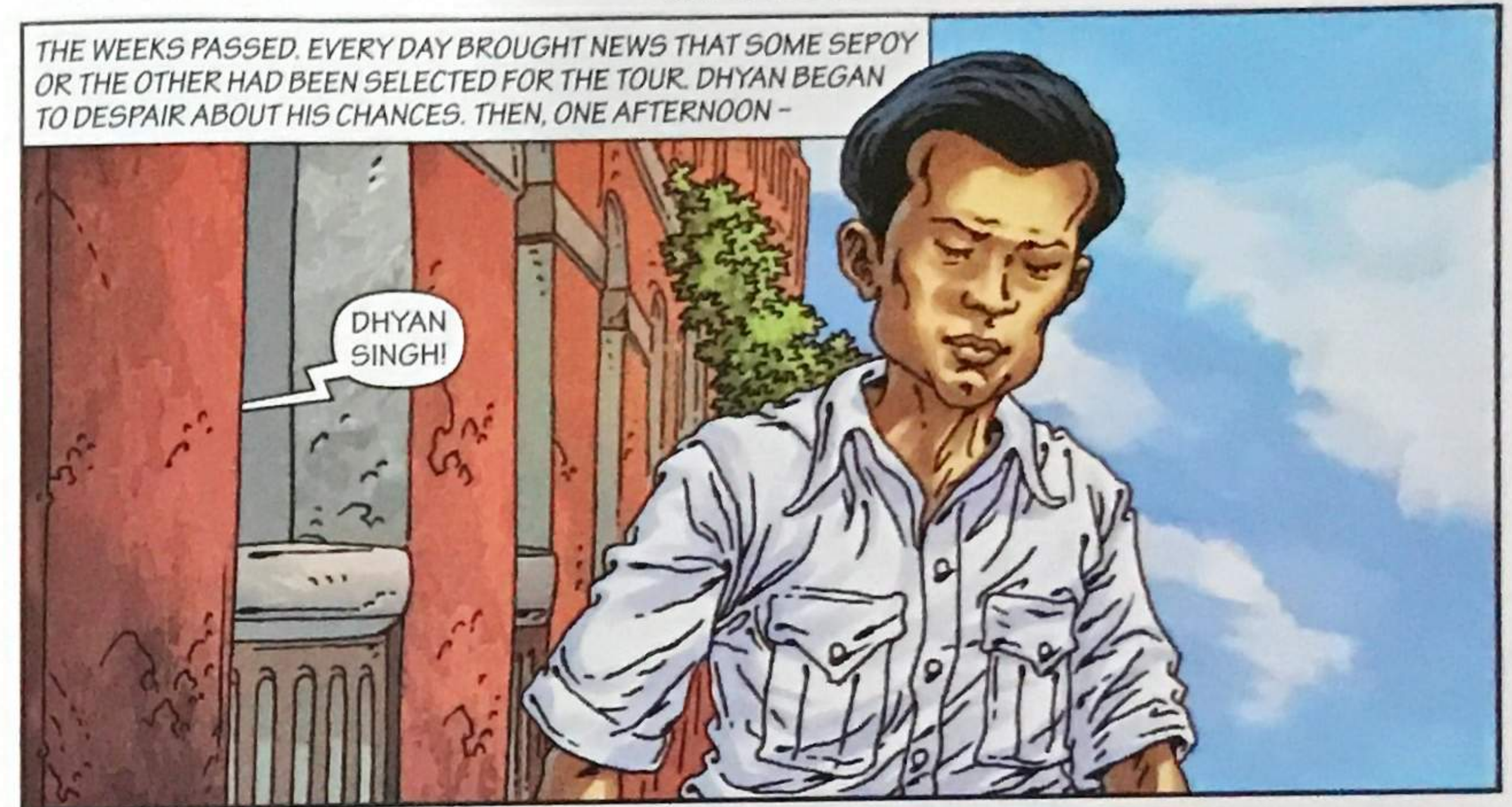




DHYAN WAS SHY AND RETICENT BY NATURE, AND NOT ONE TO ASK ANYBODY FOR FAVOURS.



THE WEEKS PASSED. EVERY DAY BROUGHT NEWS THAT SOME SEPOY OR THE OTHER HAD BEEN SELECTED FOR THE TOUR. DHYAN BEGAN TO DESPAIR ABOUT HIS CHANCES. THEN, ONE AFTERNOON -

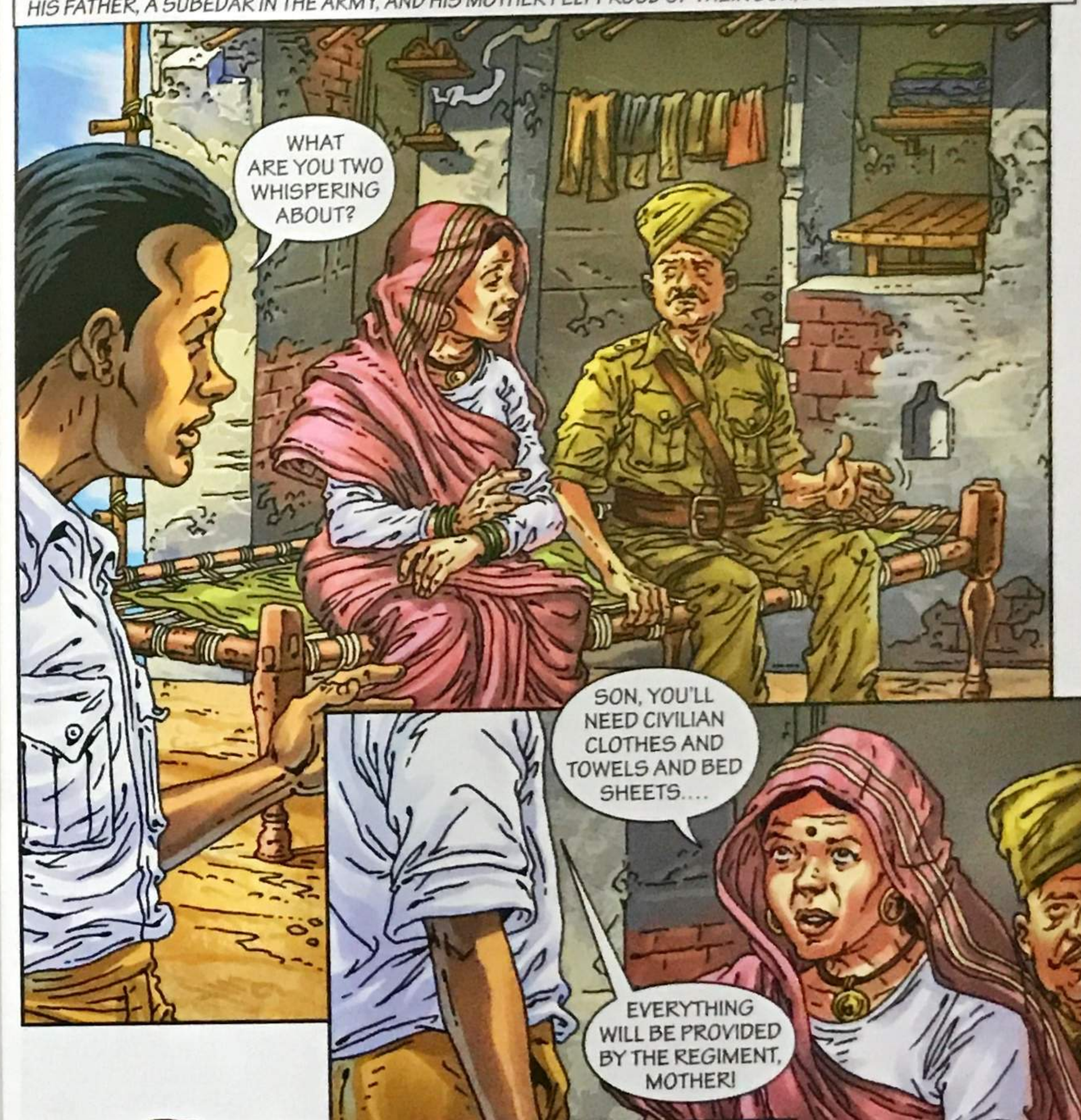






\* LONG LIVE, DHYAN CHAND!

HIS FATHER, A SUBEDAR IN THE ARMY, AND HIS MOTHER FELT PROUD OF THEIR SON, BUT THERE WERE WORRIES.



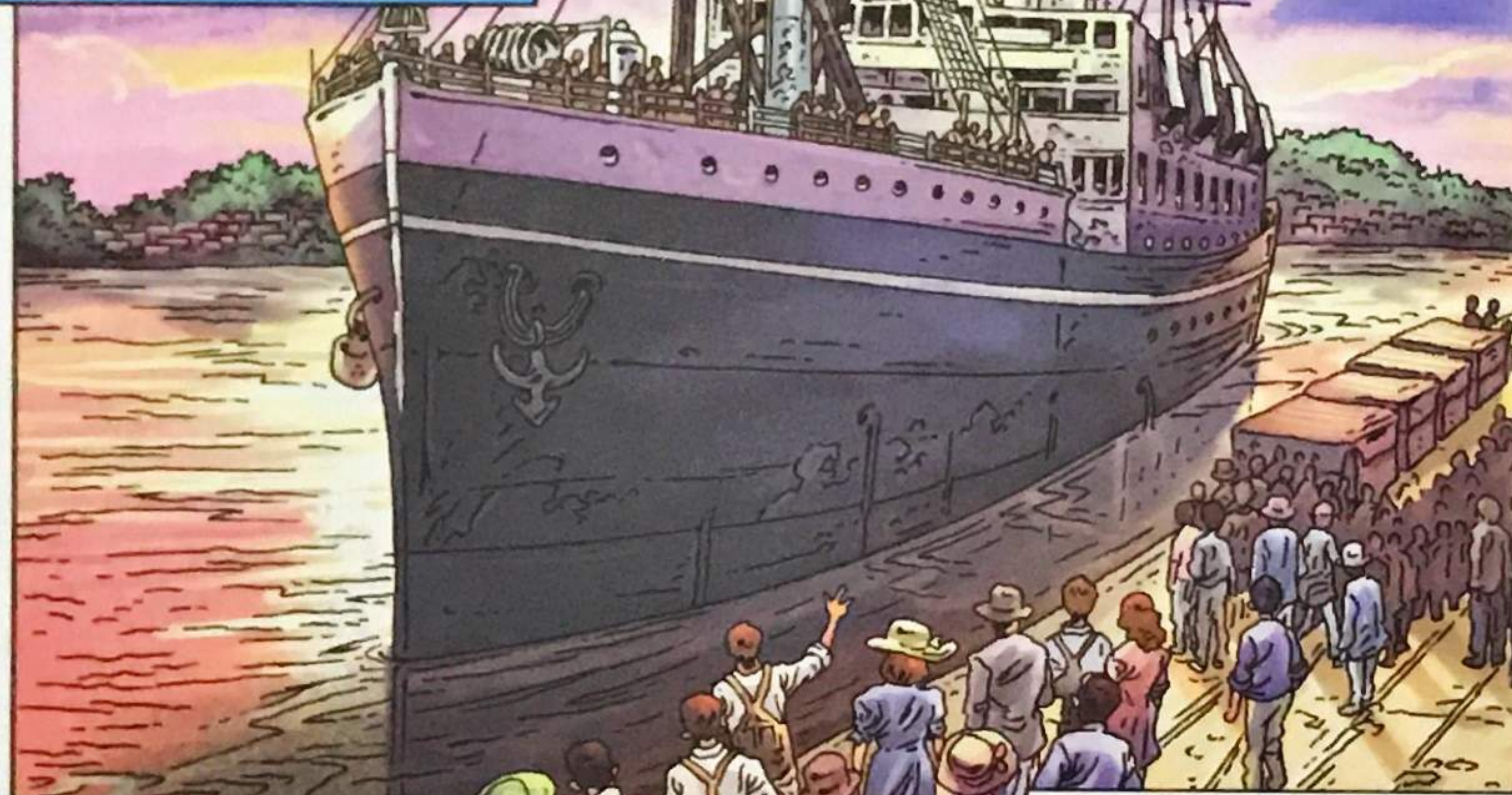
DHYAN AND HIS BROTHERS WERE USED TO HARDSHIPS AND DEPRIVATION. THEIR FATHER'S MEAGRE SALARY AND CONSTANT TRANSFERS KEPT THE FAMILY ON EDGE ALL THE TIME. FOR HIS FIRST TRIP ABROAD, DHYAN MADE DO WITH THE KIT PROVIDED BY THE ARMY.





THE TEAM SAILED FROM COLOMBO IN APRIL, 1926...

... AND REACHED NEW ZEALAND IN EARLY MAY



IT WAS THE FIRST TIME A SPORTS TEAM FROM INDIA WAS TOURING A FOREIGN COUNTRY!

THERE WERE FIVE SIKHS IN THE INDIAN TEAM. THE NEW ZEALANDERS WERE FASCINATED BY THEIR HEADGEAR AND THE WAY THE VISITORS PLAYED HOCKEY.



THEY'RE SO FAST AND THEIR STICK WORK IS SPLENDID!

THEY MAKE OUR BOYS LOOK LIKE CLUMSY OAFS IN COMPARISON!



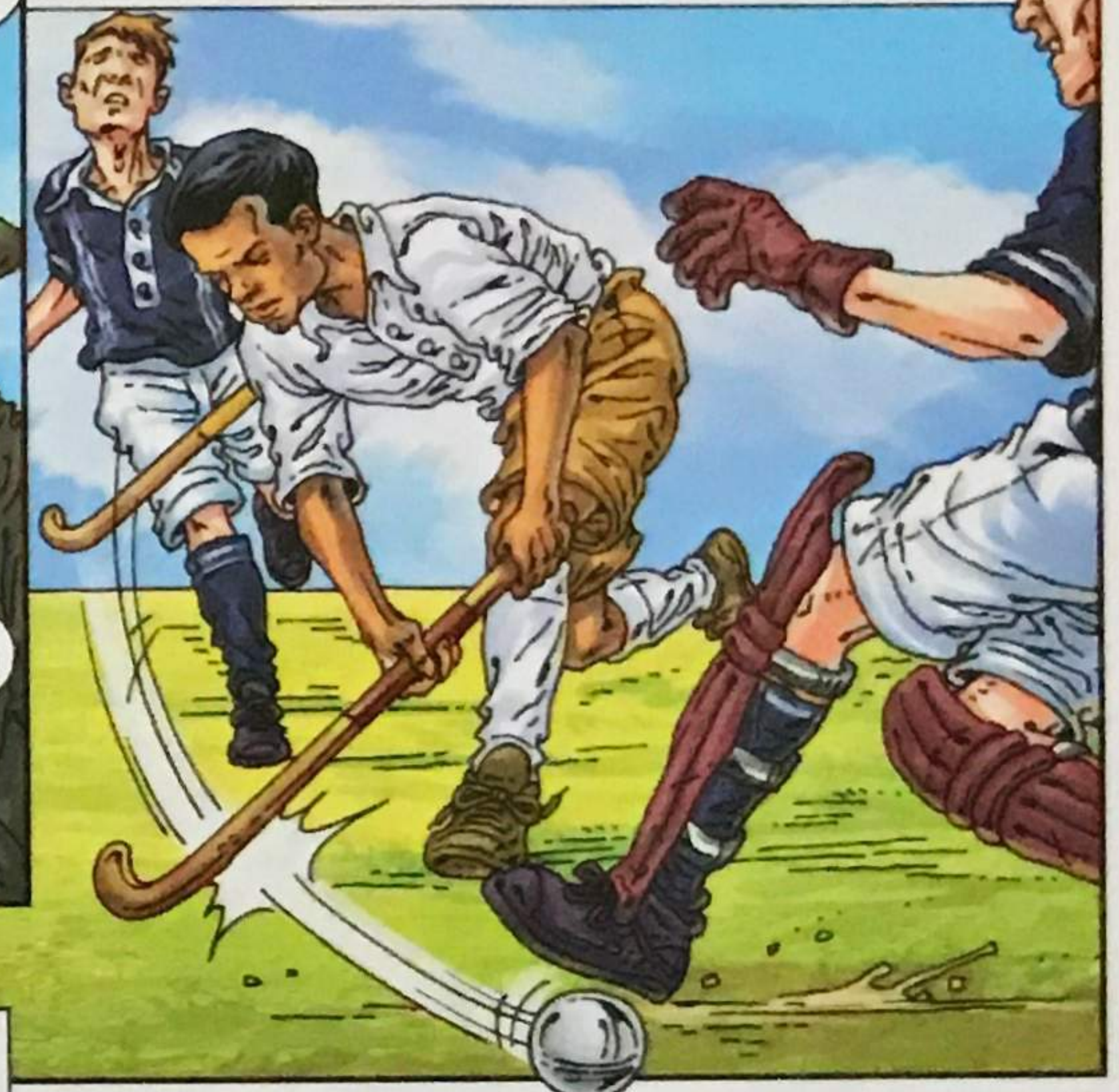
SAW THAT?! THAT SMALL MAN TOOK THE BALL RIGHT ACROSS THE FIELD DODGING ALL OUR BOYS IN HIS PATH!

THAT'S ONE OF THEIR BEST PLAYERS.

DAN CHAND!

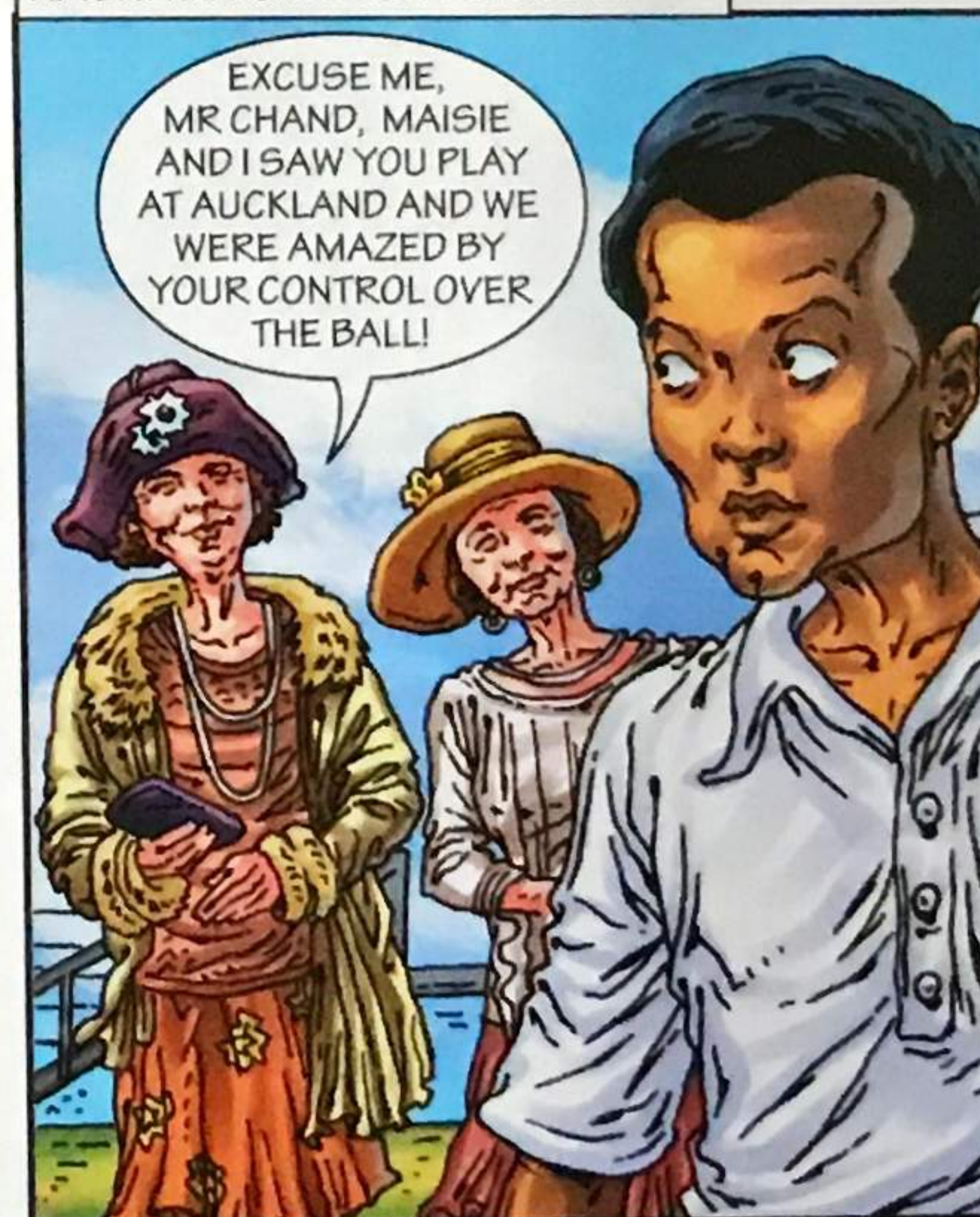


THE INDIANS PLAYED 21 MATCHES IN NEW ZEALAND, WINNING 18, DRAWING 2 AND LOSING 1. DHYAN SHOT OVER A HUNDRED OF THE 192 GOALS SCORED BY THE INDIANS DURING THE TOUR. IN CONTRAST, THE NEW ZEALANDERS SCORED ONLY 24 GOALS.



THE INDIANS WON THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE NEW ZEALANDERS. ONCE, AFTER A MATCH AT NEW PLYMOUTH -

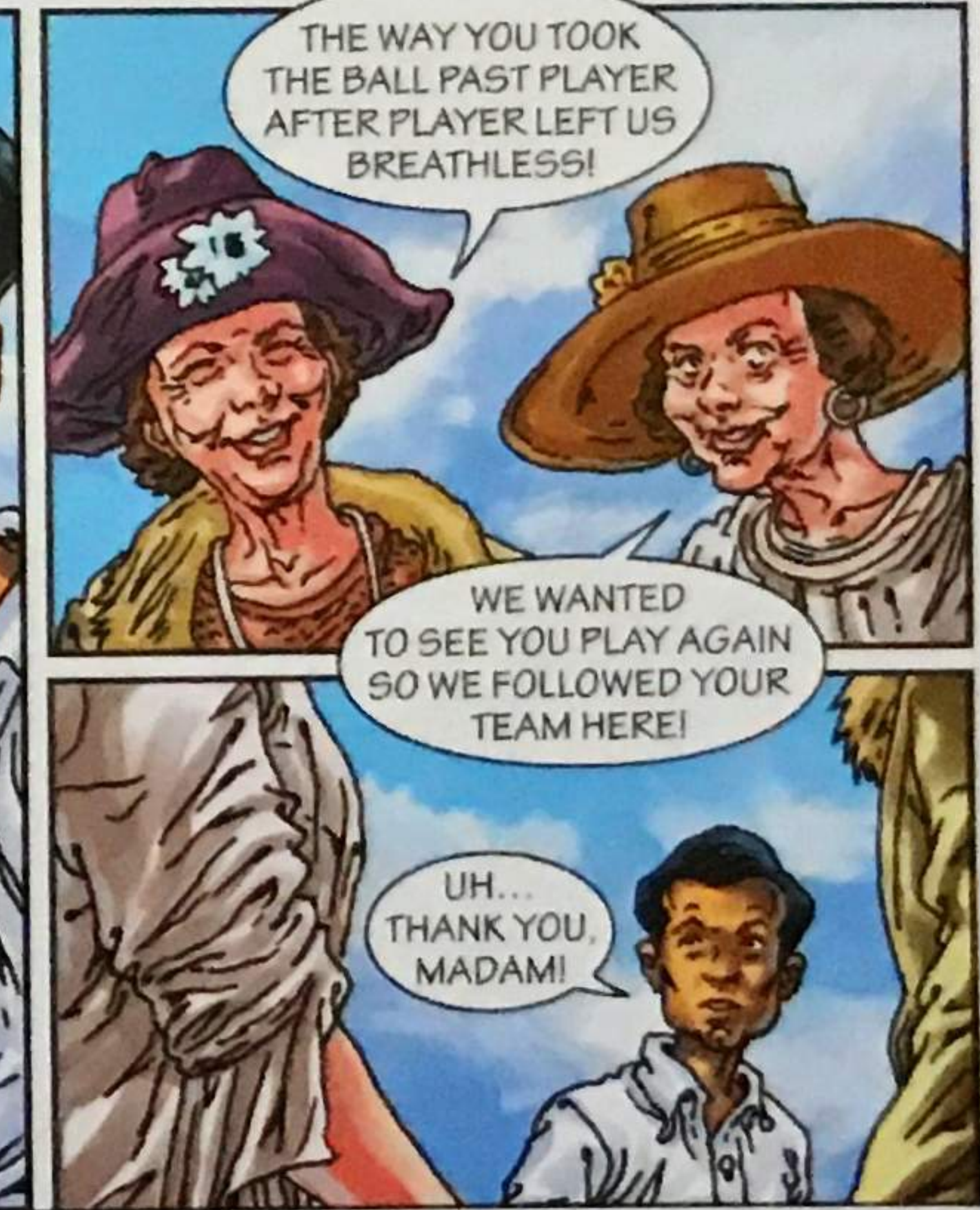
EXCUSE ME, MR CHAND, MAISIE AND I SAW YOU PLAY AT AUCKLAND AND WE WERE AMAZED BY YOUR CONTROL OVER THE BALL!



THE WAY YOU TOOK THE BALL PAST PLAYER AFTER PLAYER LEFT US BREATHLESS!

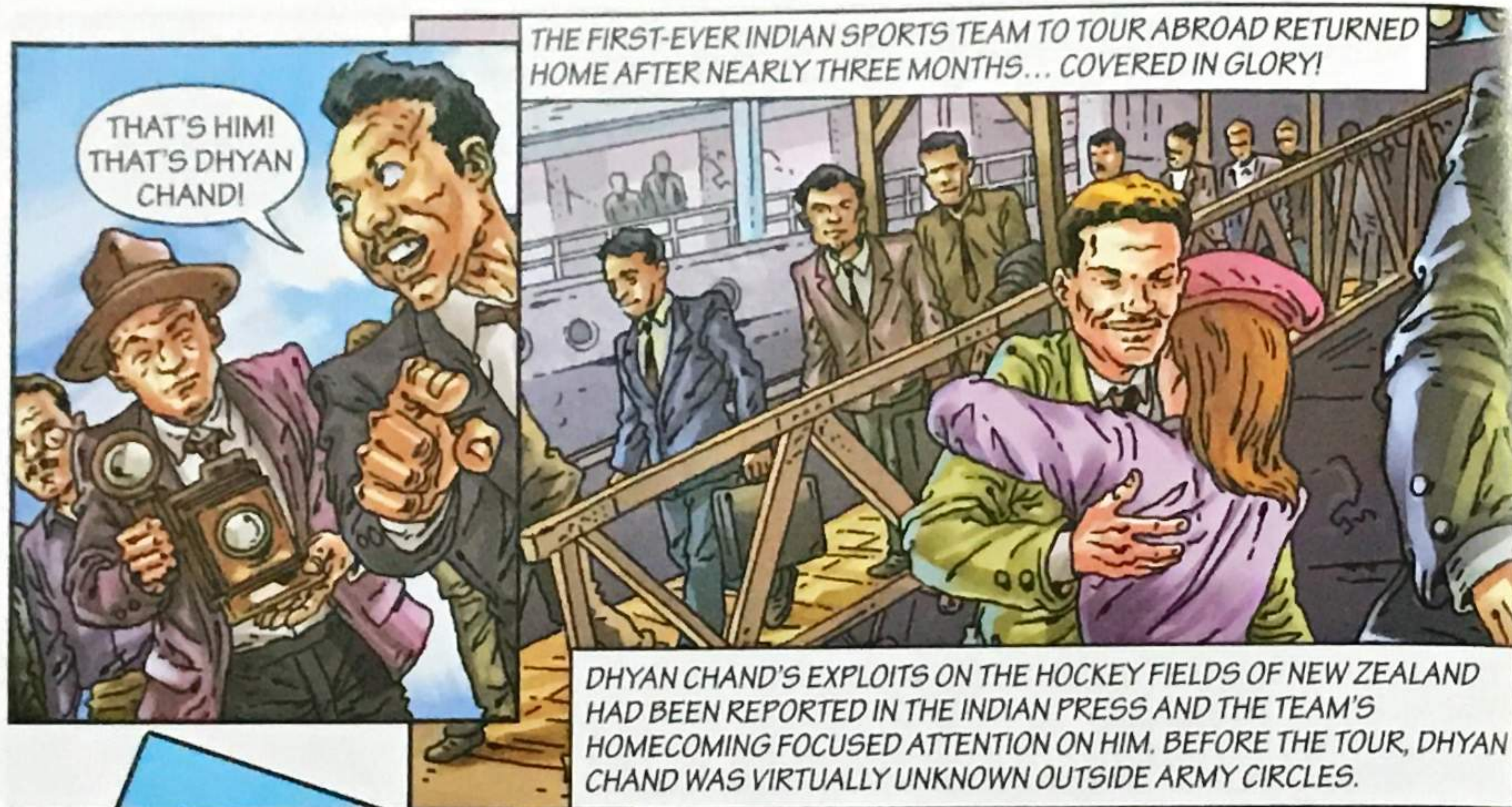
WE WANTED TO SEE YOU PLAY AGAIN SO WE FOLLOWED YOUR TEAM HERE!

UH... THANK YOU, MADAM!



YOUNG DHYAN AND HIS TEAMMATES, SIMPLE VILLAGE BOYS THAT THEY WERE, SOMETIMES FELT ILL AT EASE WITH THE PRAISE AND HONOURS HEAPED ON THEM AND THE ATTENTION GIVEN TO THEM BY THE LOCAL PEOPLE AND THE PRESS.





THE TOUR BROUGHT HIM TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC. SOON AFTERWARDS, HE WAS PROMOTED TO LANCE NAIK.

MEANWHILE, IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS HAD BEEN TAKING PLACE IN INDIAN HOCKEY. IN SEPTEMBER, 1925, IN GWALIOR -

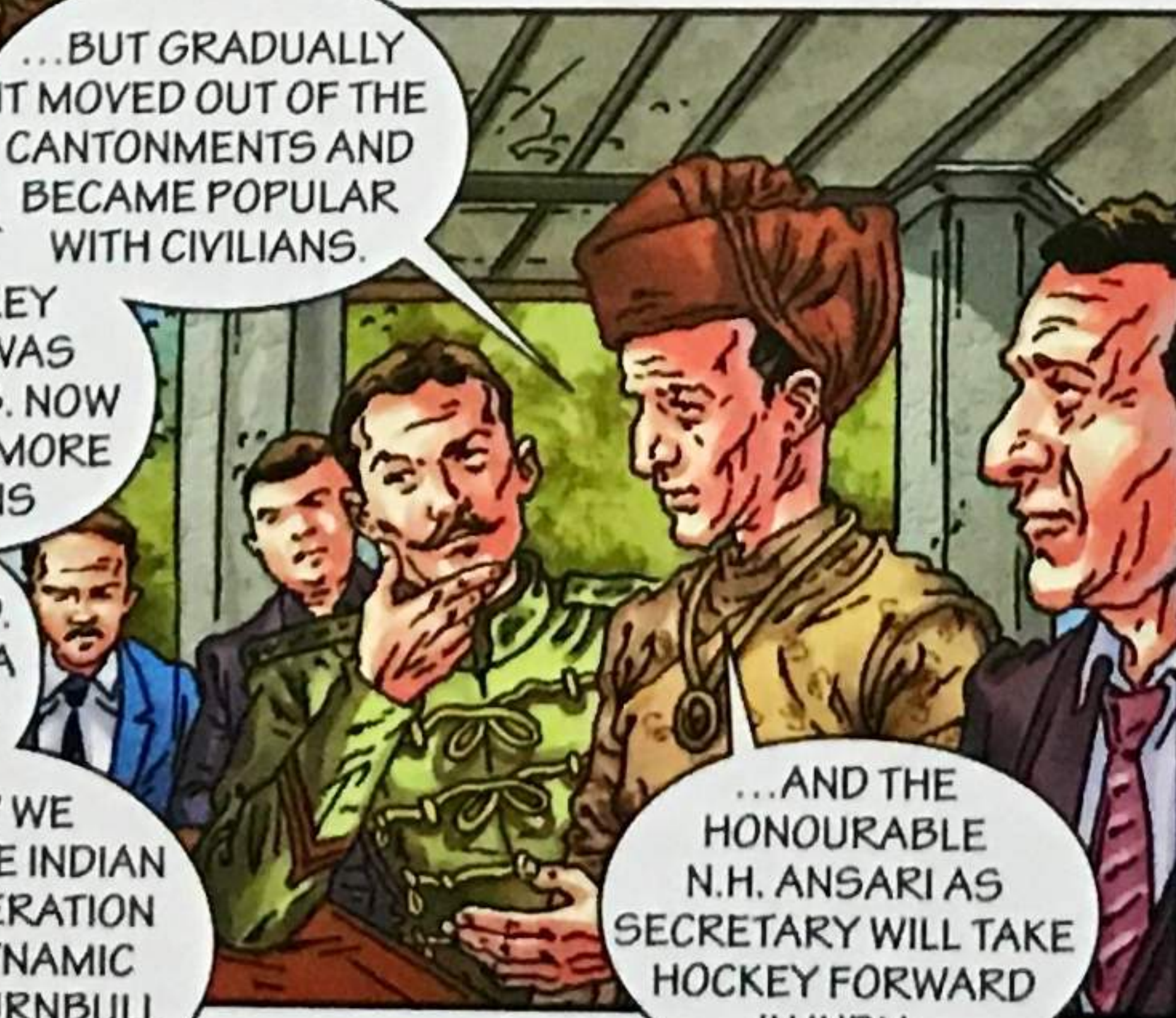


...BUT GRADUALLY IT MOVED OUT OF THE CANTONMENTS AND BECAME POPULAR WITH CIVILIANS.

THE BENGAL HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED IN 1908. NOW THERE ARE TWO MORE ASSOCIATIONS

AND MORE ARE LIKELY TO BE FORMED. BUT WHAT HOCKEY IN INDIA NEEDED WAS A CENTRAL GOVERNING BODY

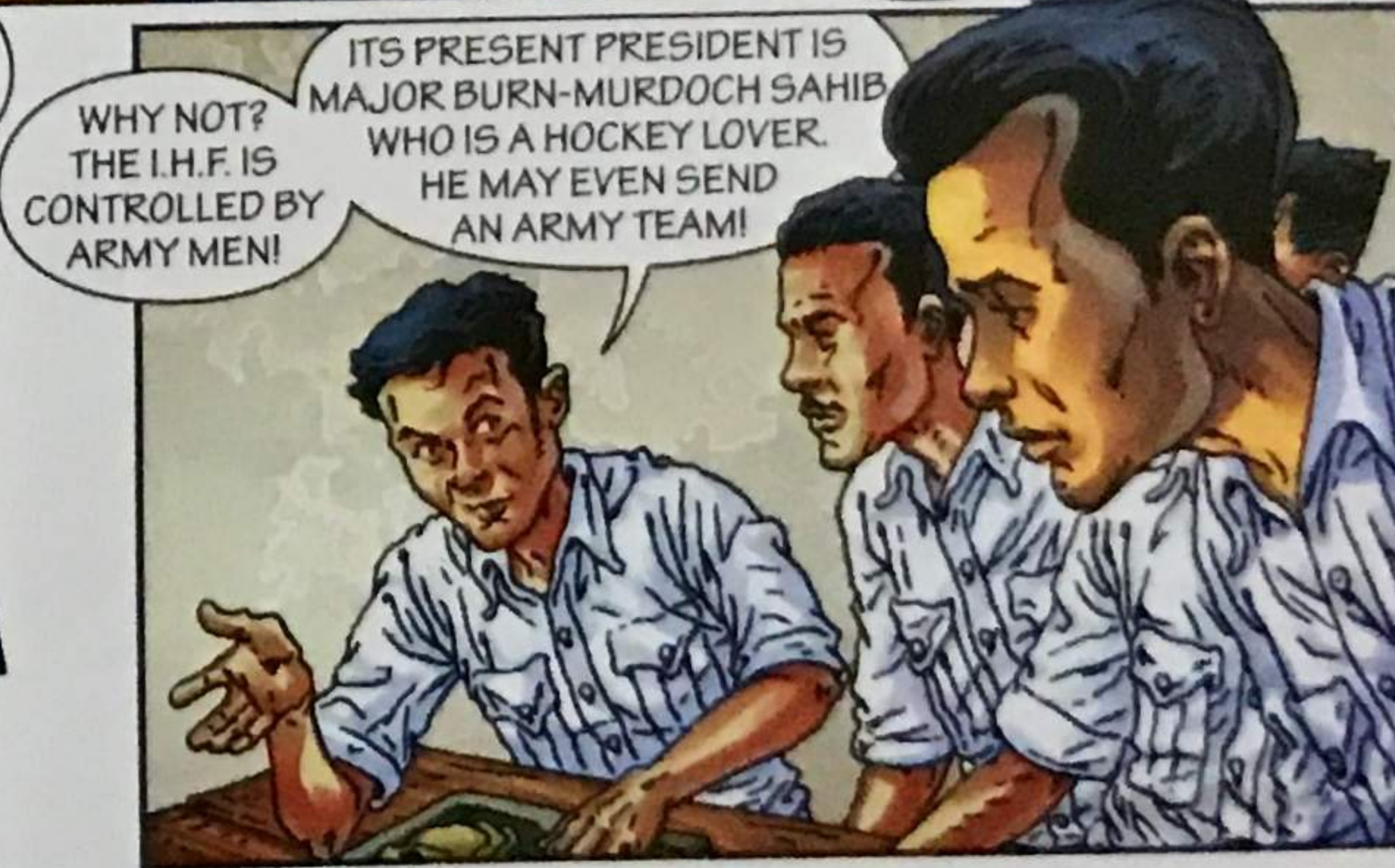
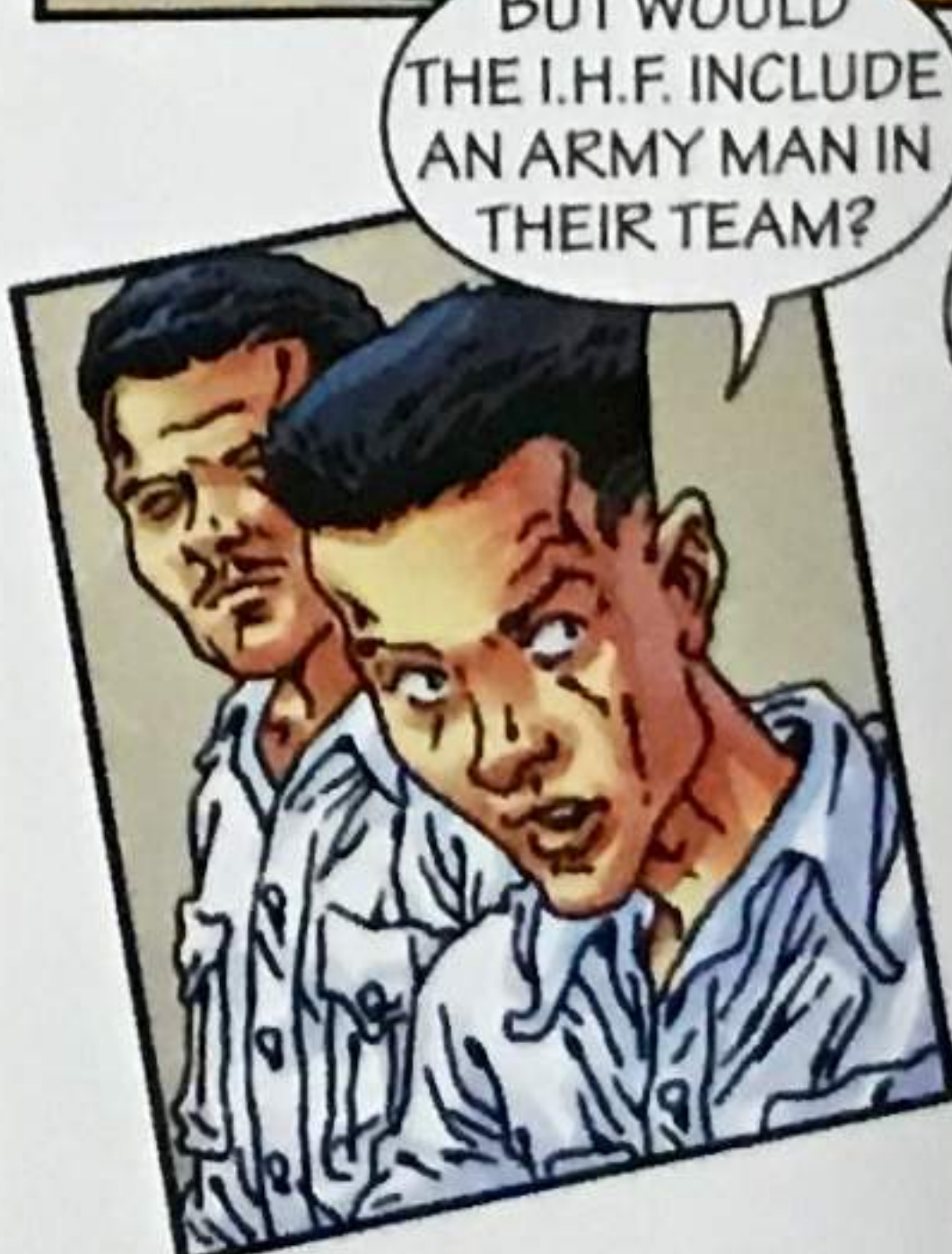
AND NOW WE HAVE ONE! THE INDIAN HOCKEY FEDERATION WITH THE DYNAMIC COL BRUCE TURNBULL AS PRESIDENT...



TWO YEARS LATER, THE INDIAN HOCKEY FEDERATION BECAME A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY FEDERATION AND GAINED INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION.



IF INDIA SENDS A TEAM, YOU HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING A BERTH!





THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION DID FINALLY DECIDE TO INCLUDE HOCKEY AS ONE OF THE SPORTS OF THE GAMES. THE I.H.F. ANNOUNCED A HOCKEY TOURNAMENT TO IDENTIFY PLAYERS FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM. THE TOURNAMENT WAS HELD BETWEEN THE TEAMS OF FIVE PROVINCES - BENGAL, UNITED PROVINCES, CENTRAL PROVINCES, RAJPUTANA AND PUNJAB.



I'VE HEARD YOU'VE BEEN LOANED TO THE U.P. TEAM, DHYAN.

YES, PERHAPS BECAUSE I WAS BORN IN ALLAHABAD IN U.P.

I'M A BIT APPREHENSIVE ABOUT PLAYING WITH CIVILIANS. I'VE ALWAYS PLAYED IN ARMY TEAMS SO FAR.

YOU'LL BE FINE! YOU'RE TOO MODEST, DHYAN. YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN WORTH.

ANY TEAM WOULD BE THRILLED TO HAVE YOU ON THEIR SIDE. U.P. WILL TREAT YOU LIKE ROYALTY!



DHYAN CHAND CERTAINLY HAD NO TROUBLE BONDING WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE U.P. TEAM. IT SOON BECAME CLEAR THAT ON THE FIELD, HE WAS THE PIVOT AROUND WHICH THE REST OF THE TEAM REVOLVED.



ONLY THE PUNJAB TEAM, CAPTAINED BY ERIC PINNIGER, SHOWED SOME ABILITY TO STAND UP TO U.P.'S AGGRESSIVE PLAY.

BUT U.P. OUSTED PUNJAB IN THE SEMI-FINAL AND THEN OVERRAN RAJPUTANA IN THE FINAL TO WIN THE FIRST-EVER NATIONAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP.





19 FEBRUARY, 1928, WAS THE DAY WHEN THE TEAM FOR THE OLYMPICS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED. NONE OF HIS TEAMMATES COULD SLEEP THE PREVIOUS NIGHT BUT DHYAN CHAND, DISCIPLINED BY HIS ARMY TRAINING, WAS SOON SNORING AWAY.

LOOK AT HIM! NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD!

HE KNOWS HE'S SURE TO BE SELECTED.

IF HE IS, YOU TOO WILL MAKE IT, MARTHINS.

YOU, CHAND, SEAMAN AND FEROZE ARE THE SPEARHEAD OF OUR ATTACK.

THE SELECTION WILL BE DONE BY MAJOR BURN-MURDOCH SAHIB AND COLONEL HILL SAHIB, BOTH ARMY MEN, SO GORAS AND ARMY MEN HAVE THE BEST CHANCE.

13 PLAYERS WERE SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR PERFORMANCE AT THE TOURNAMENT. DHYAN CHAND WAS ONE OF THEM. THE TEAM WAS TO GO TO AMSTERDAM VIA ENGLAND, WHERE THEY WOULD BE JOINED BY THREE INDIAN PLAYERS WHO WERE STUDYING AT OXFORD...

I HOPE THEY ARE RIGHT! GOING BY FORM, I SHOULD BE SELECTED BUT ONE NEVER KNOWS!

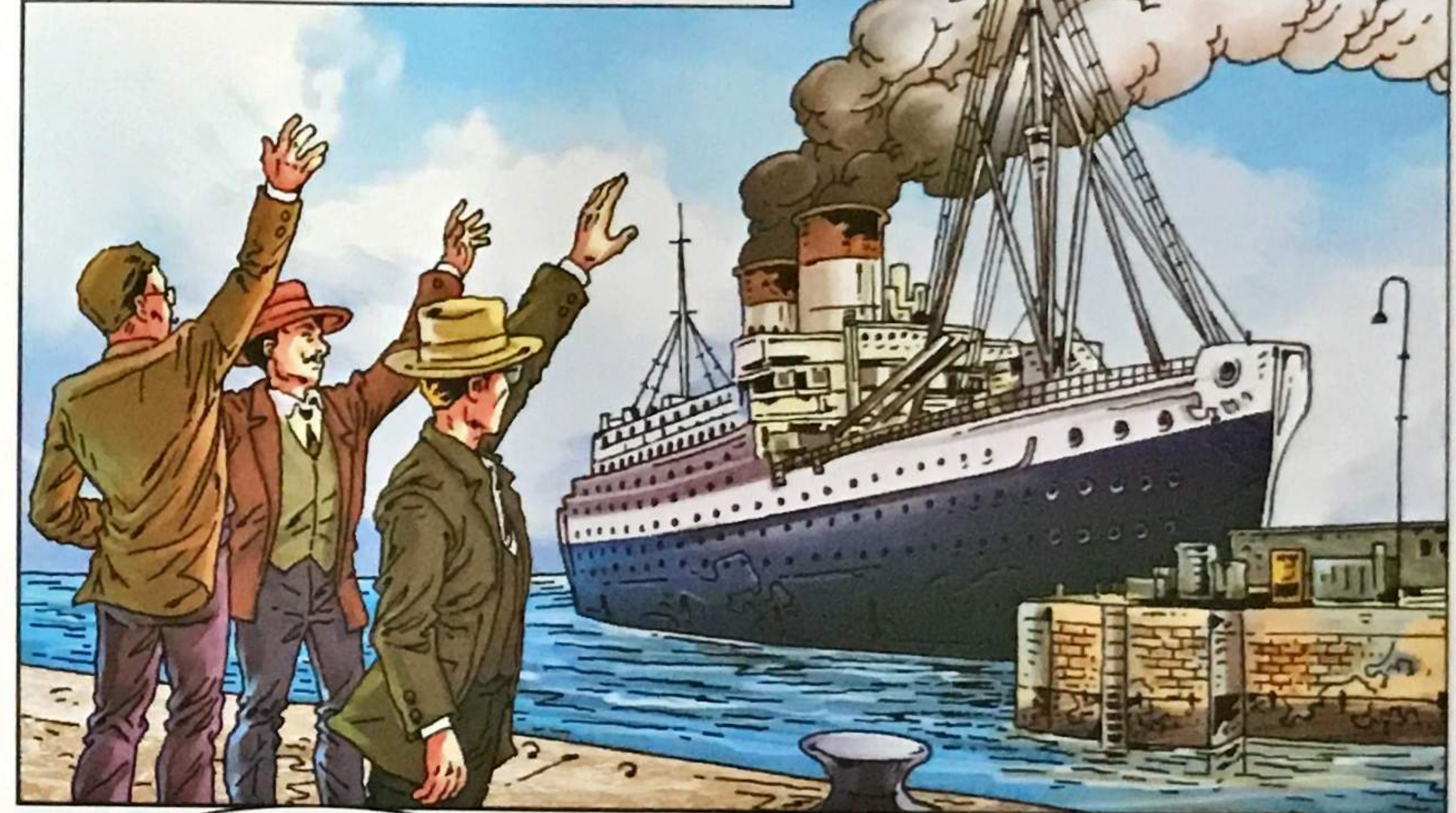
... JAIPAL SINGH (CAPTAIN), PATAUDI SR. AND S.M. YUSUF. THE TEAM WAS TO LEAVE FOR AMSTERDAM BY SHIP FROM BOMBAY\*. WHILE IN BOMBAY, THE TEAM PLAYED AGAINST BOMBAY XI AND LOST 3-2! DHYAN SHOT BOTH THE GOALS FOR HIS SIDE.

IS THIS THE SIDE THAT'S GOING TO REPRESENT US?

THEY MIGHT AS WELL HAVE SENT THE BOMBAY XI!

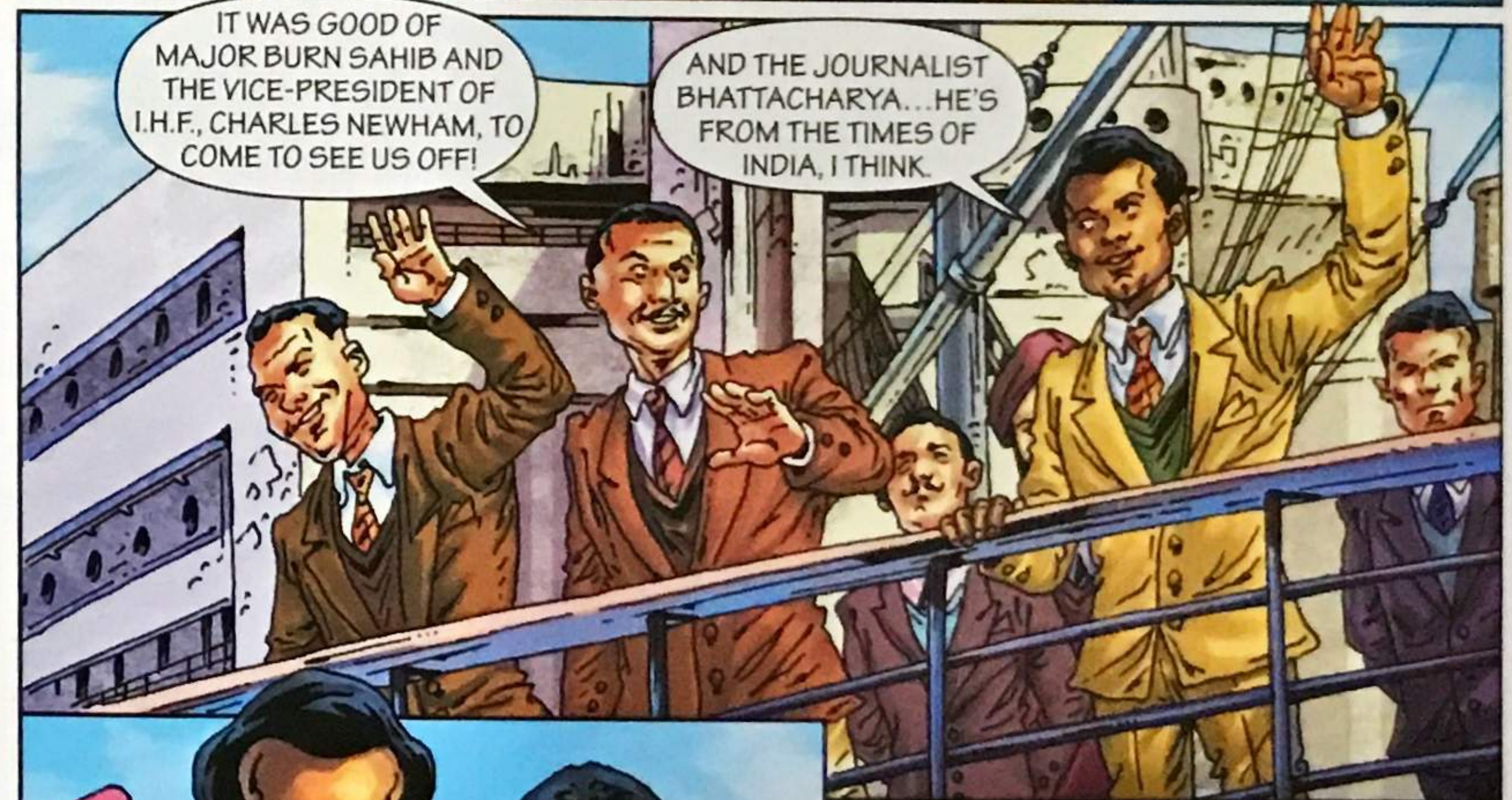
\* NOW CALLED MUMBAI

THE TEAM WAS FURTHER DISHEARTENED TO SEE THAT ONLY THREE PEOPLE HAD COME TO SEE THEM OFF AT BALLARD PIER WHEN THEY LEFT FOR ENGLAND ON 10 MARCH, 1928.



IT WAS GOOD OF MAJOR BURN SAHIB AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF I.H.F., CHARLES NEWHAM, TO COME TO SEE US OFF!

AND THE JOURNALIST BHATTACHARYA... HE'S FROM THE TIMES OF INDIA, I THINK.



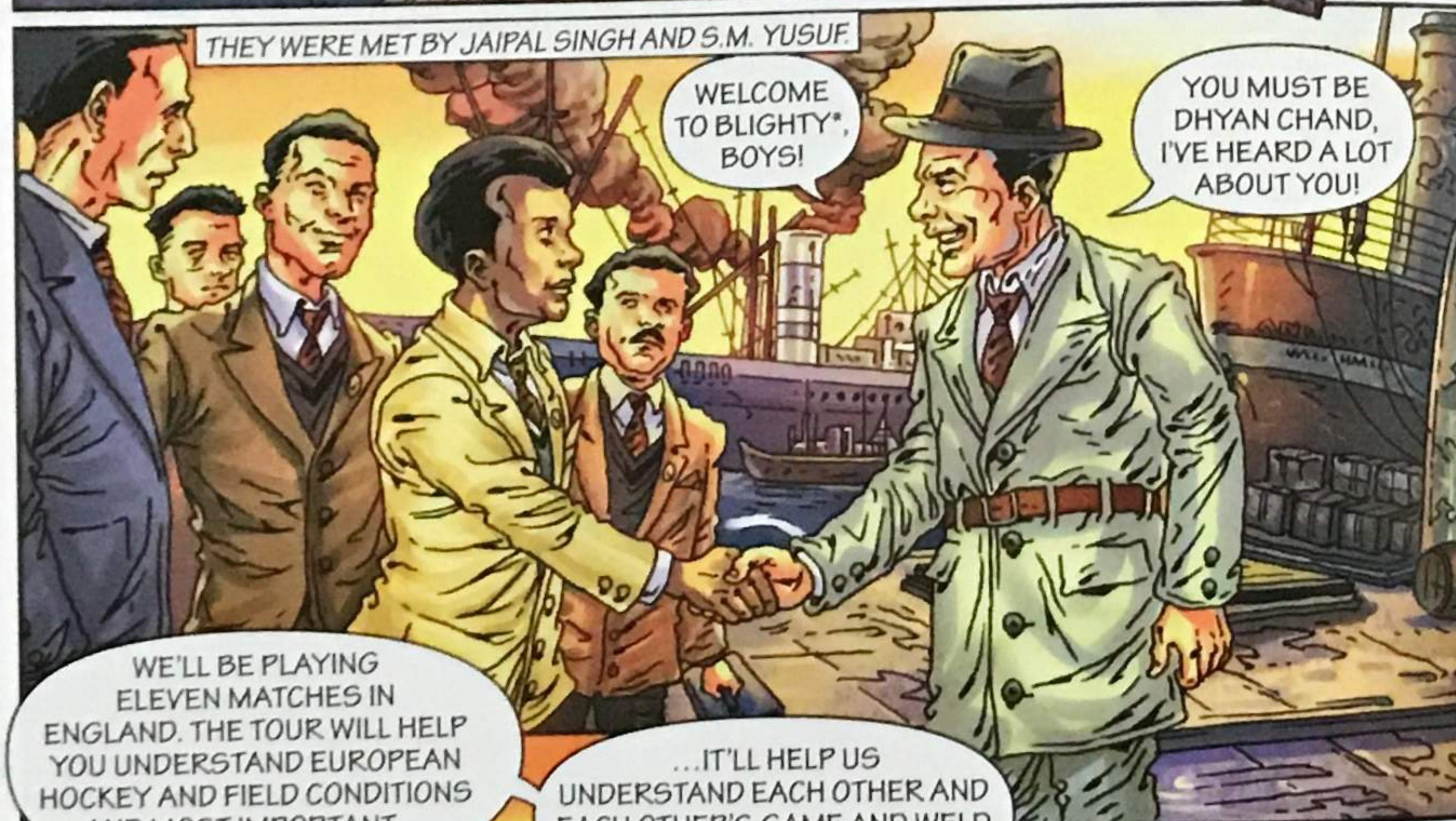
BURN-MURDOCH WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO HOCKEY IN INDIA. IT WAS HE WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SENDING AN ARMY HOCKEY TEAM TO NEW ZEALAND IN 1926 OF WHICH I WAS A MEMBER.



THE SHIP TOUCHED TILBURY DOCKS NEAR LONDON ON A COLD, MISTY MORNING IN MARCH.



THEY WERE MET BY JAIPAL SINGH AND S.M. YUSUF.



WELCOME TO BLIGHTY\*, BOYS!

YOU MUST BE DHYAN CHAND, I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU!

WE'LL BE PLAYING ELEVEN MATCHES IN ENGLAND. THE TOUR WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND EUROPEAN HOCKEY AND FIELD CONDITIONS AND MOST IMPORTANT...

...IT'LL HELP US UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER AND EACH OTHER'S GAME AND WELD US INTO A STRONG, UNITED TEAM!

NOW LET'S GO TO YOUR HOTEL!

JAIPAL WAS WELL-KNOWN IN BRITISH HOCKEY CIRCLES AS HE PLAYED FOR THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY TEAM. HE WAS THE FIRST INDIAN STUDENT TO BE CONFERRED 'THE OXFORD BLUE' IN HOCKEY. JAIPAL WAS AN ADIVASI BELONGING TO THE MUNDA TRIBE. AFTER HIS RETURN TO INDIA, HE WORKED HARD FOR THE UPLIFTMENT OF TRIBALS AND FOUNDED A PARTY THAT SPEARHEADED THE MOVEMENT FOR THE FORMATION OF JHARKHAND STATE.

\* BRITISH SLANG FOR BRITAIN. DERIVED FROM 'VILAYATI' WHICH MEANS BRITISH.

THE TEAM SPENT A MONTH IN ENGLAND, SIGHTSEEING.

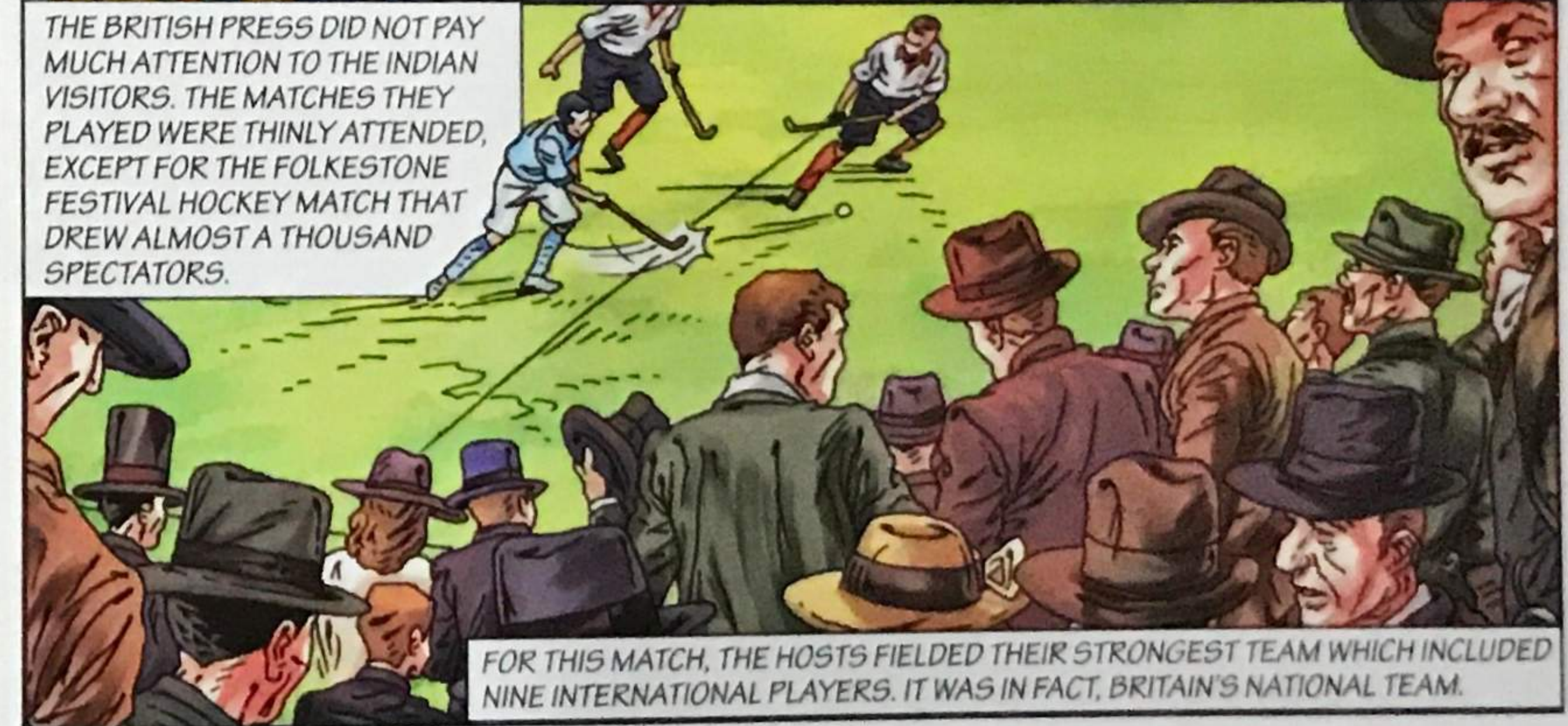


YOU WANT TO SEE TRAFALGAR SQUARE?

THAT WAY! GO THAT WAY!

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME ANY OF THE PLAYERS HAD BEEN TO ENGLAND AND THEY WERE THRILLED AND EXCITED BY THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF LONDON.

THE BRITISH PRESS DID NOT PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THE INDIAN VISITORS. THE MATCHES THEY PLAYED WERE THINLY ATTENDED, EXCEPT FOR THE FOLKESTONE FESTIVAL HOCKEY MATCH THAT DREW ALMOST A THOUSAND SPECTATORS.



FOR THIS MATCH, THE HOSTS FIELDED THEIR STRONGEST TEAM WHICH INCLUDED NINE INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS. IT WAS IN FACT, BRITAIN'S NATIONAL TEAM.



THE SPECTATORS, NATURALLY ROOTING FOR THEIR HOME TEAM, WATCHED IN HORROR AS THE INDIAN FORWARDS, LED BY DHYAN CHAND, PENETRATED THE BRITISH DEFENCE, TIME AND AGAIN...

...TO SLAM IN FOUR GOALS! THE BRITISH TEAM FAILED TO SCORE.



BRITISH HOCKEY OFFICIALS WATCHED GRIMLY FROM THE PAVILION. THE BRITISH WERE WORLD HOCKEY CHAMPIONS AT THAT TIME AND THE PATHETIC DISPLAY BY THE HOME SIDE SHOCKED AND DISMAYED THE OFFICIALS.



I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD SEND A TEAM TO THE OLYMPICS!

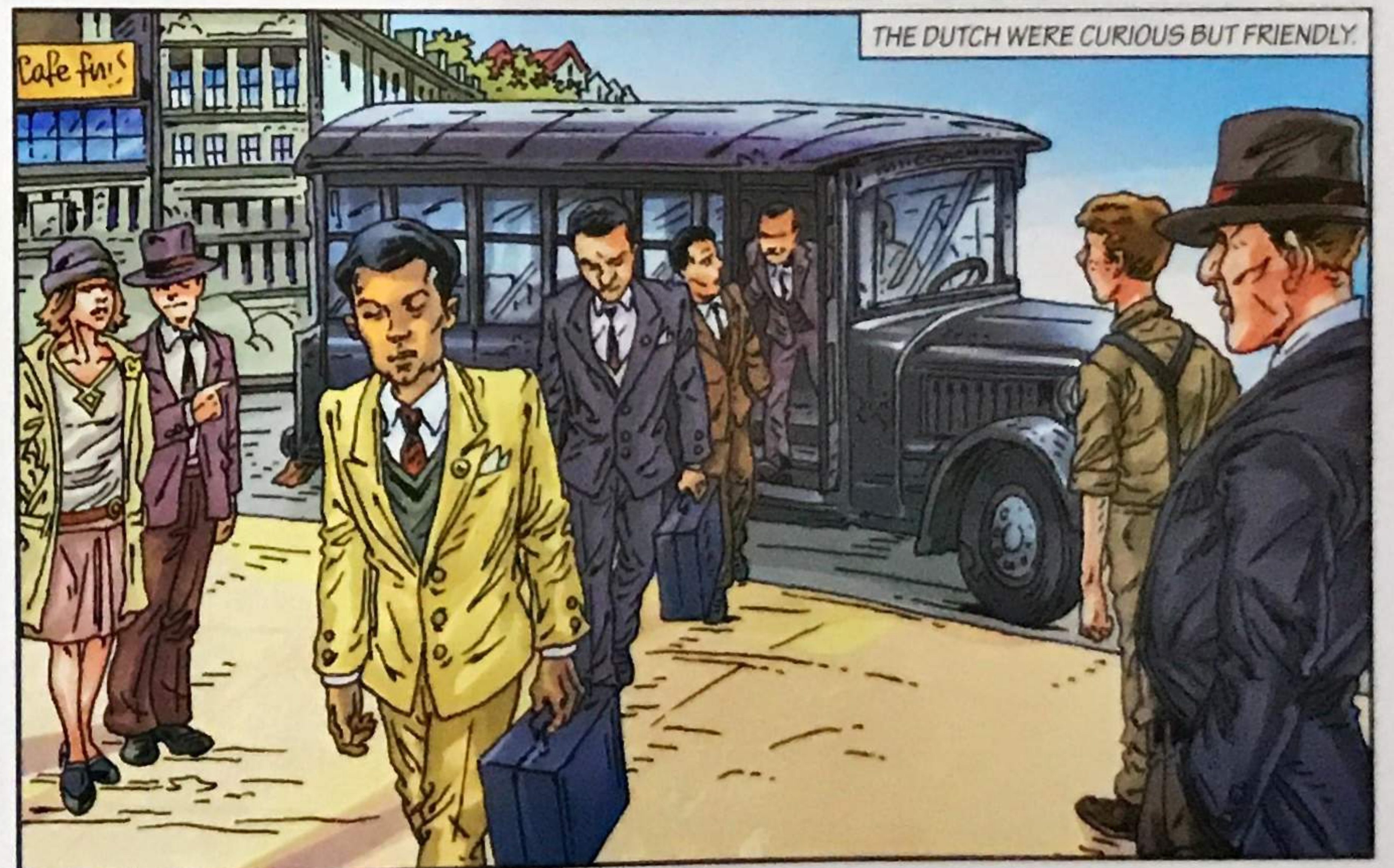
YOU MEAN....

DID YOU SEE HOW THEY DANCED AROUND OUR BOYS? WE CAN'T RISK BEING DEFEATED BY A SIDE FROM ONE OF OUR BLASTED COLONIES!

LEAVING AS QUIETLY AND UNOBTRUSIVELY AS THEY HAD COME...



...THE INDIANS ARRIVED IN AMSTERDAM ON 14 APRIL, 1928.



THE DUTCH WERE CURIOUS BUT FRIENDLY.



POLITE FRIENDLINESS TURNED TO ADMIRATION WHEN THE INDIANS, IN THEIR FIRST MATCH WITH A DUTCH TEAM, AMSTERDAM XI, TROUNCED THEIR HOSTS 24-6!



THEY WERE INVITED TO PLAY IN GERMANY AND BELGIUM WHERE THEY WON EVERY MATCH. SO WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE OLYMPISCH STADION\* FOR THEIR FIRST OLYMPIC ENCOUNTER ON 17 MAY, THEY WERE CHARGED UP AND RARING TO GO. TEAM MANAGER, ROSSER, GAVE THEM A PEP TALK BEFORE THEIR FIRST GAME WITH AUSTRIA.



\* OLYMPIC STADIUM IN AMSTERDAM

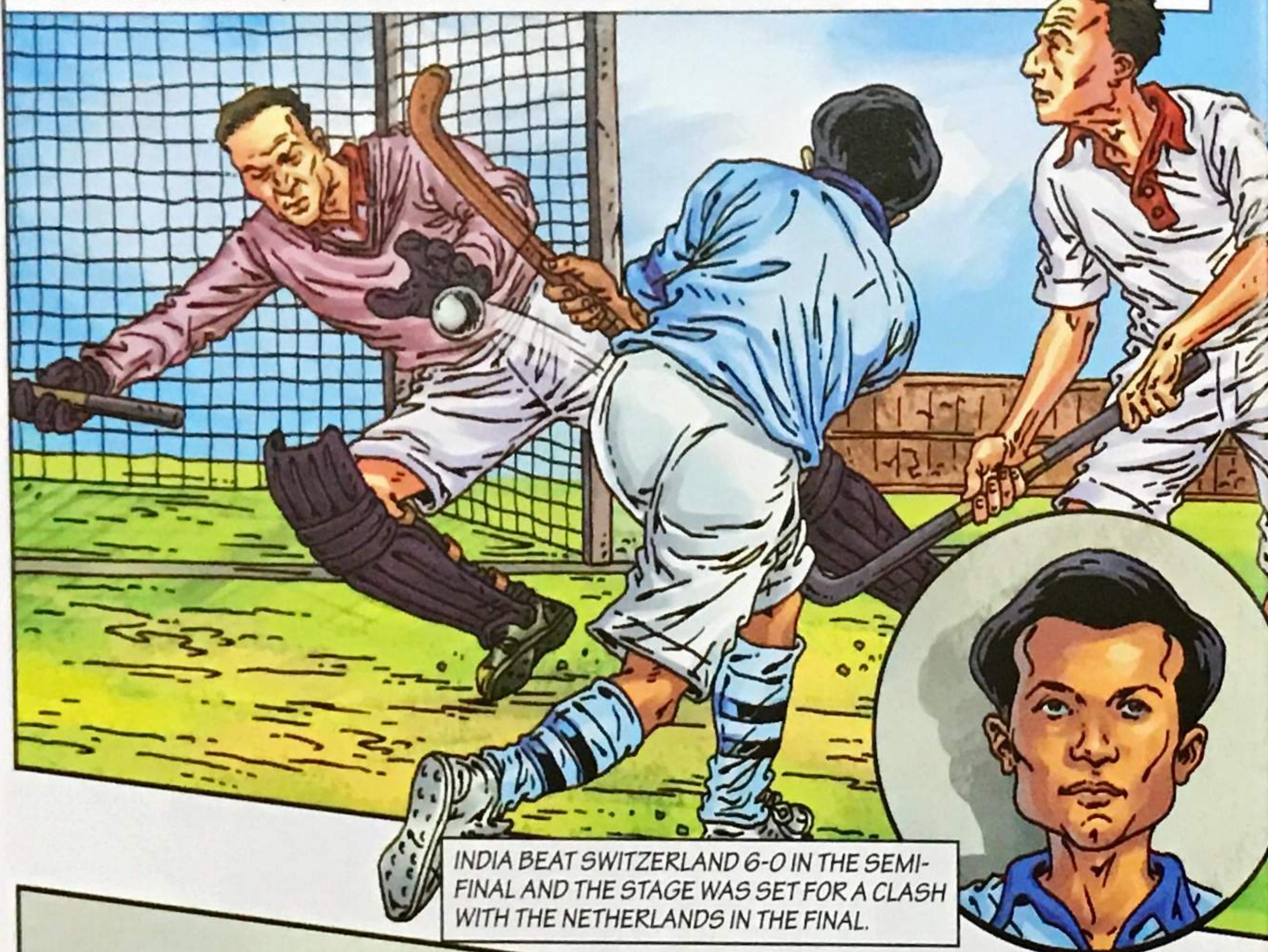
THERE WERE NINE TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN FIELD HOCKEY (CZECHOSLOVAKIA DROPPED OUT AT THE LAST MOMENT) AND THEY WERE DIVIDED INTO TWO DIVISIONS, A AND B. INDIA, THE ONLY NON-EUROPEAN TEAM IN THE COMPETITION, WAS IN DIVISION A. IN THEIR FIRST MATCH AGAINST AUSTRIA, INDIA GAVE THEIR OPPONENTS NO CHANCE TO SCORE.



\*WONDERFUL, IN DUTCH



IN THE NEXT GAME, AGAINST BELGIUM, INDIA WON 9-NIL. THAT BROUGHT THEM UP AGAINST DENMARK. THE DANISH SIDE PUT UP STIFF RESISTANCE AND THEIR GOALIE WAS REALLY GOOD, STOPPING AT LEAST THREE SHOTS FROM DHYAN CHAND THAT WERE HEADED FOR THE NET. BUT THE DANES COULD NOT WITHSTAND THE INDIAN ONSLAUGHT, FINALLY CONCEDED FOUR GOALS WITHOUT SCORING EVEN ONCE.



INDIA BEAT SWITZERLAND 6-0 IN THE SEMI-FINAL AND THE STAGE WAS SET FOR A CLASH WITH THE NETHERLANDS IN THE FINAL.



INDIA IS INVINCIBLE!

NOT A SINGLE GOAL HAS BEEN SCORED AGAINST THEM BY ANY TEAM SO FAR!

AND NO ONE CAN STOP THEIR CENTRE-FORWARD, DHYAN CHAND.

NOTHING CAN GET PAST THEIR GOALIE, RICHARD ALLEN.

YES, THEY SAY THAT FELLOW IS A WIZARD!

I WONDER HOW OUR BOYS WILL FARE AGAINST THEM IN THE FINAL TOMORROW.

THE FINAL WAS PLAYED ON 26 MAY, 1928. A THUNDEROUS CHEER WENT UP FROM THE VAST CROWD WHEN THE INDIANS CAME OUT ONTO THE FIELD. BUT ALL WAS NOT WELL WITH THE INDIANS. CAPTAIN JAIPAL SINGH HAD LEFT SUDDENLY FOR ENGLAND, FOLLOWING DIFFERENCES WITH THE MANAGER, AND ERIC PINNIGER HAD TAKEN OVER THE CAPTAINCY.



STAR STRIKERS FEROZE KHAN AND SHAUKAT ALI WERE ON THE SICK LIST. DHYAN CHAND TOO WAS RUNNING A HIGH FEVER BUT HE WAS DETERMINED TO PLAY.

REMEMBER, BOYS, IT'S DO OR DIE FOR US!

THE DUTCH PLAYERS WERE BRIMMING WITH CONFIDENCE AS THEY HAD DEFEATED GERMANY, FRANCE AND SPAIN TO COME TO THE TOP OF THEIR GROUP.



ALSO, THEY WERE PLAYING ON HOME GROUND. THEY PLAYED AMAZINGLY WELL...

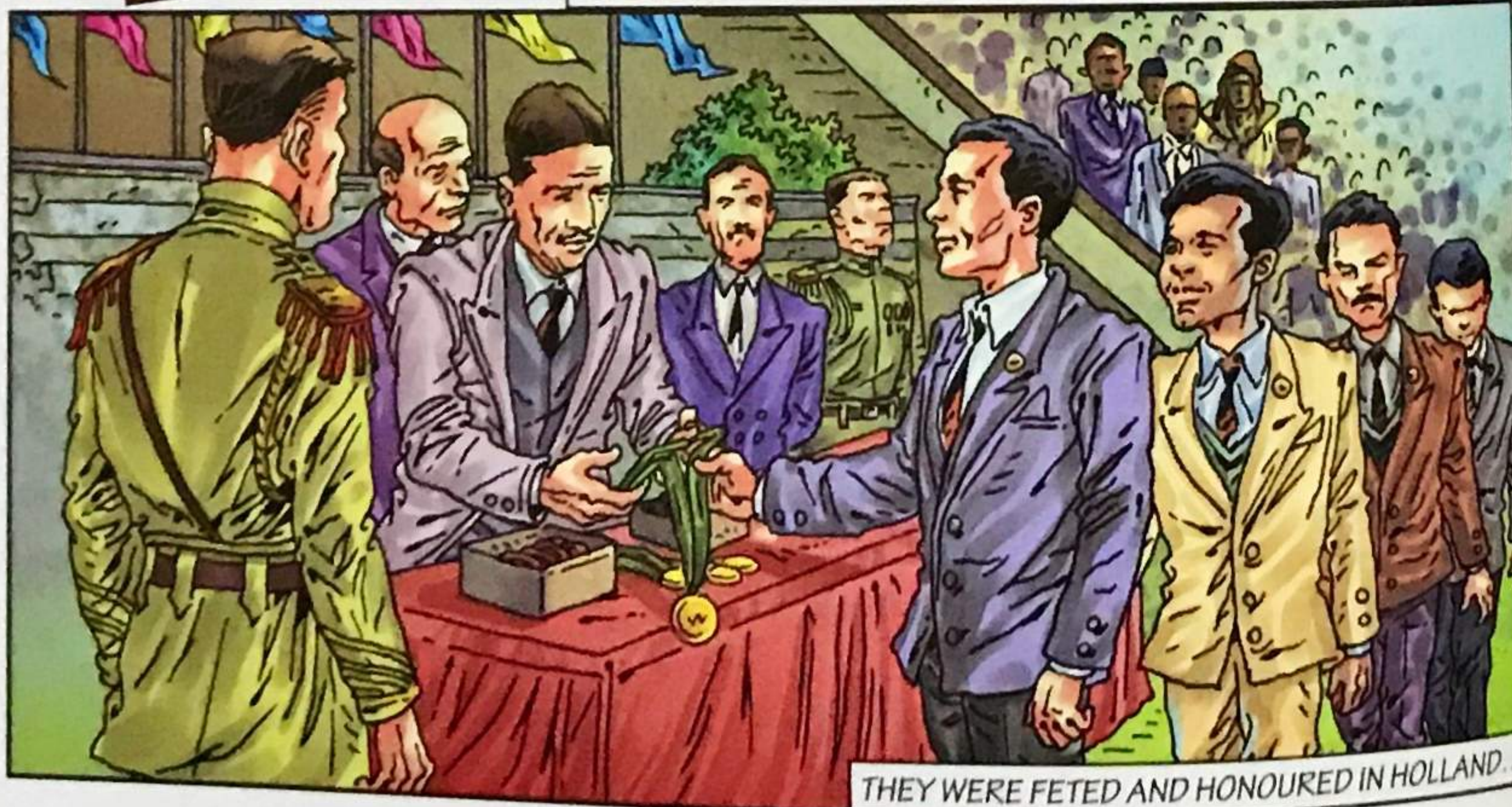


... BUT THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR THE INDIANS. DHYAN CHAND SHOT A GOAL WITHIN 15 MINUTES OF THE FIRST HALF AND WENT ON TO SHOOT ANOTHER IN THE SECOND HALF.



GEORGE MARTHINS SCORED THE THIRD GOAL IN THE LAST MOMENTS OF THE MATCH. THE FINAL SCORE: 3-0. INDIA HAD WON!

DHYAN CHAND AND HIS TEAMMATES RECEIVED THEIR GOLD MEDALS AT THE OLYMPIC STADIUM THE NEXT DAY AND, AS DHYAN CHAND WRITES IN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY, THEIR JOY KNEW NO BOUNDS. THEY HAD WON GLORY FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR COUNTRY, MAKING INDIA A WORLD POWER IN HOCKEY!



THEY WERE FETED AND HONOURED IN HOLLAND...

... BUT GIVEN THE COLD SHOULDER BY THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC IN BRITAIN WHEN THEY STOPPED IN ENGLAND ON THEIR WAY BACK HOME. AS THE SHIP BY WHICH THEY WERE RETURNING NEARED BOMBAY -



I WONDER WHAT SORT OF RECEPTION WE'LL GET IN BOMBAY!

DON'T SET YOUR HOPES TOO HIGH, ERIC!

THREE PEOPLE CAME TO SEE US OFF; THREE PEOPLE WILL COME TO WELCOME US BACK!



BUT FEROZE WAS WRONG.

DHYAN CHAND KI JAI!



A LARGE CROWD HAD GATHERED TO WELCOME THEM. THE MAYOR OF BOMBAY, DR G.V. DESHMUKH AND AT LEAST TWO PROMINENT POLITICAL LEADERS WERE PRESENT AT THE GATHERING.

WELL DONE, BOYS! WELL DONE! YOU'VE DONE THE COUNTRY PROUD.



THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY SENT A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE THROUGH HIS REPRESENTATIVE.



MANY PARTIES AND RECEPTIONS WERE HELD IN THEIR HONOUR, AND DHYAN CHAND WAS THE CENTRE OF ATTRACTION EVERYWHERE.

MY BROTHER SENT ME PRESS CUTTINGS FROM A DUTCH PAPER AFTER YOUR MATCH WITH THE DUTCH.

IT SEEMS YOU BAFFLED NOT ONLY THE PLAYERS BUT ALSO THE SPECTATORS WITH YOUR STICK WORK!

PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR AUTOGRAPH, MR CHAND!

THEY SAY YOUR HOCKEY STICK WAS ACTUALLY A MAGIC WAND THAT DREW THE BALL IN ANY DIRECTION YOU WANTED!

HOCKEY HAD COME OF AGE IN INDIA.



BUT ALL TOO SOON THE CELEBRATIONS WERE OVER AND DHYAN CHAND WAS BACK WITH HIS REGIMENT WHICH WAS THEN POSTED IN NORTH INDIA.

THEY SAY THE GIRLS WERE FALLING ALL OVER YOU IN HOLLAND, DHYANI!

NO, NO! WE ATTENDED A FEW PARTIES BUT...

BUT DHYAN CHAND STAYED ALOOF AS USUAL!

DHYAN IS NOT INTERESTED IN GIRLS. HE ALREADY HAS ONE TO WHOM HE IS DEVOTED...



...HIS HOCKEY STICK!

HA HA HA HA





ON 29 OCTOBER, 1929, THE U.S. STOCK MARKET CRASHED, SETTING OFF A CHAIN REACTION THAT RESULTED IN ECONOMIC CHAOS AROUND THE WORLD FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS. FACED WITH A CASH CRUNCH, COUNTRIES THAT WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE 1932 LOS ANGELES OLYMPICS DRASTICALLY CUT DOWN ON THE SIZE OF THE CONTINGENTS THEY WERE SENDING TO THE GAMES.

THE HOCKEY TEAMS WERE THE FIRST TO BE AXED. IN INDIA, THE INDIAN HOCKEY FEDERATION WAS NO LONGER THE PRESERVE OF ARMY OFFICERS. CIVILIANS WERE IN CONTROL AND THE NEW PRESIDENT, M. HAYMAN, WAS CAUGHT IN A DILEMMA.

PANKAJ, WE DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO SEND 16 PLAYERS TO LOS ANGELES, BUT WE ARE WORLD CHAMPIONS AND WE HAVE TO DEFEND OUR TITLE!

WE'LL FIND THE MONEY SOMEHOW, MR HAYMAN!

WE HAVE TO SEND A TEAM, COME WHAT MAY!

PANKAJ GUPTA WAS HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE I.H.F.

THEY FINALLY BORROWED THE MONEY FROM PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK. SELECTION TRIALS WERE HELD IN CALCUTTA\*. THE ARMY REFUSED TO SEND DHYAN FOR THE TRIALS SAYING THAT HE HAD NO NEED TO PROVE HIMSELF. HOWEVER, THE TRIALS LED TO THE SELECTION OF ANOTHER PLAYER WHO WOULD MAKE A MARK IN INDIAN HOCKEY - DHYAN CHAND'S YOUNGER BROTHER, ROOP SINGH. HE WAS A HARD HITTER OF THE BALL AND EXCELLED IN PENALTY STROKES.



\* NOW CALLED KOLKATA

THE 1932 OLYMPIC HOCKEY TOURNAMENT WAS A CAKEWALK FOR THE INDIANS. THEY ONLY HAD TO PLAY AGAINST TWO COUNTRIES - JAPAN AND THE U.S.A. AGAIN, IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHY BRITAIN DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN HOCKEY, BUT IT WAS CERTAINLY NOT DUE TO FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS. INDIA DEFEATED THE JAPANESE 11-1, WITH DHYAN SCORING 4 OF THE GOALS.

THE OTHER SCORERS WERE ROOP AND GURMIT SINGH WHO SCORED 3 GOALS EACH AND RICHARD CARR, 1.



JAPAN DEFEATED THE U.S.A. 9-2...





THE INDIANS PLAYED 48 MATCHES IN THE COURSE OF THE TOUR AND WON EVERY ONE OF THEM. IN THE LAST MATCH AGAINST NEW ZEALAND, THE KIWIS RESORTED TO A TRICK: THEY LEFT THE GRASS UNMOWN ON THE FIELD, EXCEPT IN THE D\*. THEY HOPED THE TALL GRASS WOULD SLOW DOWN THEIR OPPONENTS. DHYAN AND ROOP SINGH OVERCAME THE HANDICAP BY KEEPING THE BALL IN THE AIR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, TOSSING IT FROM HOCKEY STICK TO HOCKEY STICK AS THEY RACED TOWARDS THE GOAL.



WITH ONLY THE GOALKEEPER TO GET PAST, DHYAN GAVE THE BALL A MIGHTY HIT...



...BUT THE NIMBLE GOALKEEPER DIVED TO HIS LEFT AND STOPPED THE BALL.

\*THE SEMI-CIRCLE IN FRONT OF THE GOAL

SOME TIME LATER, DHYAN AGAIN RUSHED TO THE GOAL...



...AND HIT A SIZZLING SHOT, BUT AGAIN...



...THE GOALIE DIVED TO HIS RIGHT AND DEFLECTED THE BALL AWAY!







IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE DHYAN CAME TEARING DOWN THE FIELD ONCE AGAIN. THE GOALIE BRACED HIMSELF FOR A DIVE TO THE LEFT OR RIGHT...



... BUT -



DHYAN HAD FINALLY GOT PAST THE ACROBATIC GOALKEEPER!

IT WAS IN THE 1936 BERLIN OLYMPICS THAT DHYAN, THEN 31 YEARS OLD, REACHED THE PEAK OF FAME AND GLORY. THE BERLIN GAMES HAD A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR HIM FOR THEY ACTUALISED ONE OF HIS FONDEST DREAMS: TO LEAD THE INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM IN THE OLYMPICS. HE WAS APPOINTED CAPTAIN, SOMETHING HE HAD THOUGHT WOULD NEVER BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF FORMAL EDUCATION AND LOW ARMY RANKING.







DHYAN WAS MORE SHAKEN THAN THE OTHERS. THE THOUGHT THAT INDIA MIGHT LOSE THE WORLD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP UNDER HIS CAPTAINCY FILLED HIM WITH DREAD. HE, SYED JAFFAR AND PANKAJ GUPTA ANALYSED THE GAME TILL LATE AT NIGHT.





THE GAMES OF THE ELEVENTH OLYMPIAD WERE DECLARED OPEN BY THE CHANCELLOR OF GERMANY, ADOLF HITLER, ON 1 AUGUST, 1936, IN BERLIN.



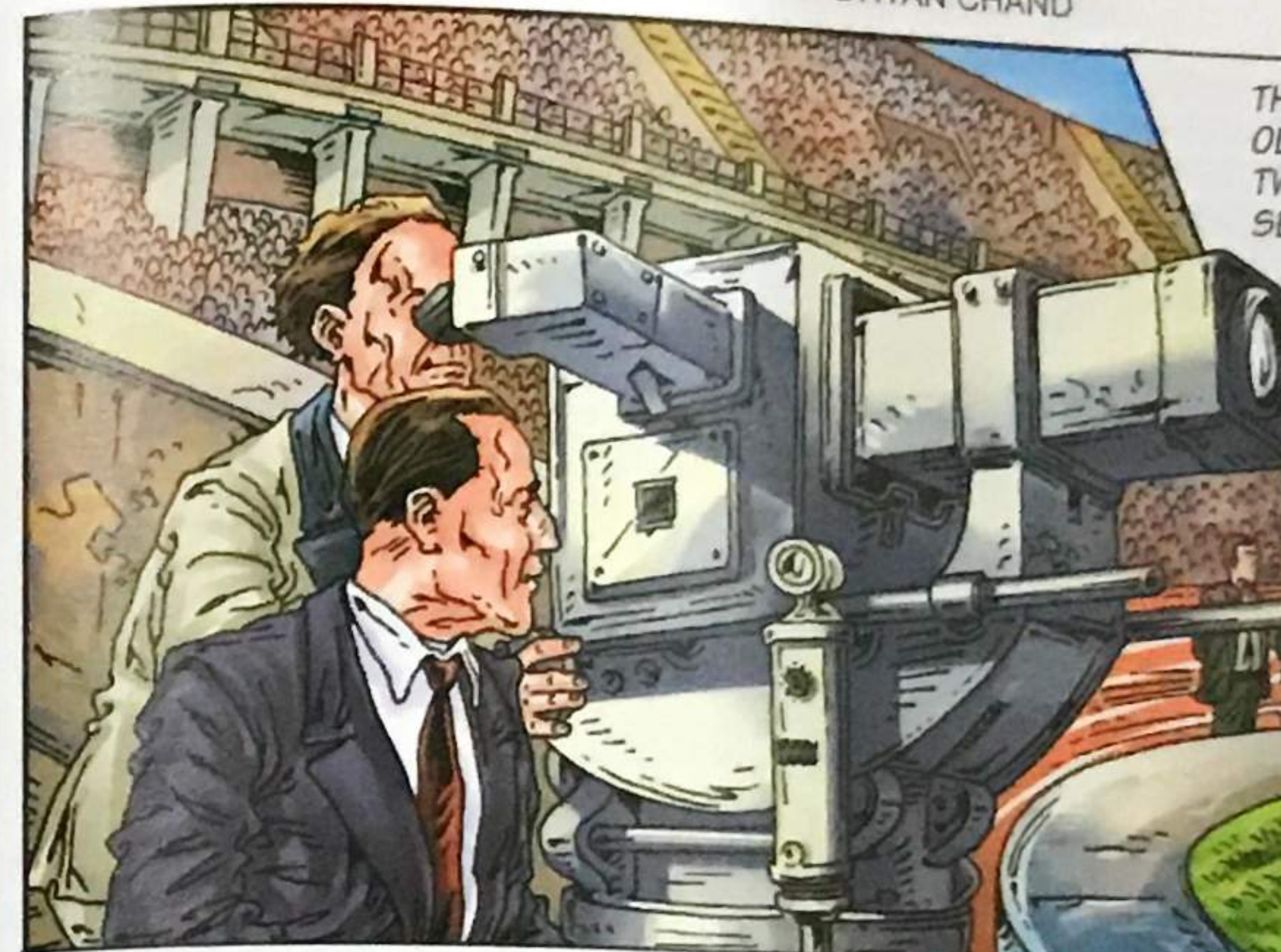
HITLER SAW THE GAMES AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE HIS GOVERNMENT AND ITS IDEALS OF 'ARYAN SUPREMACY'. HE PULLED OUT ALL STOPS TO MAKE THE GAMES A SPECTACULAR SUCCESS.



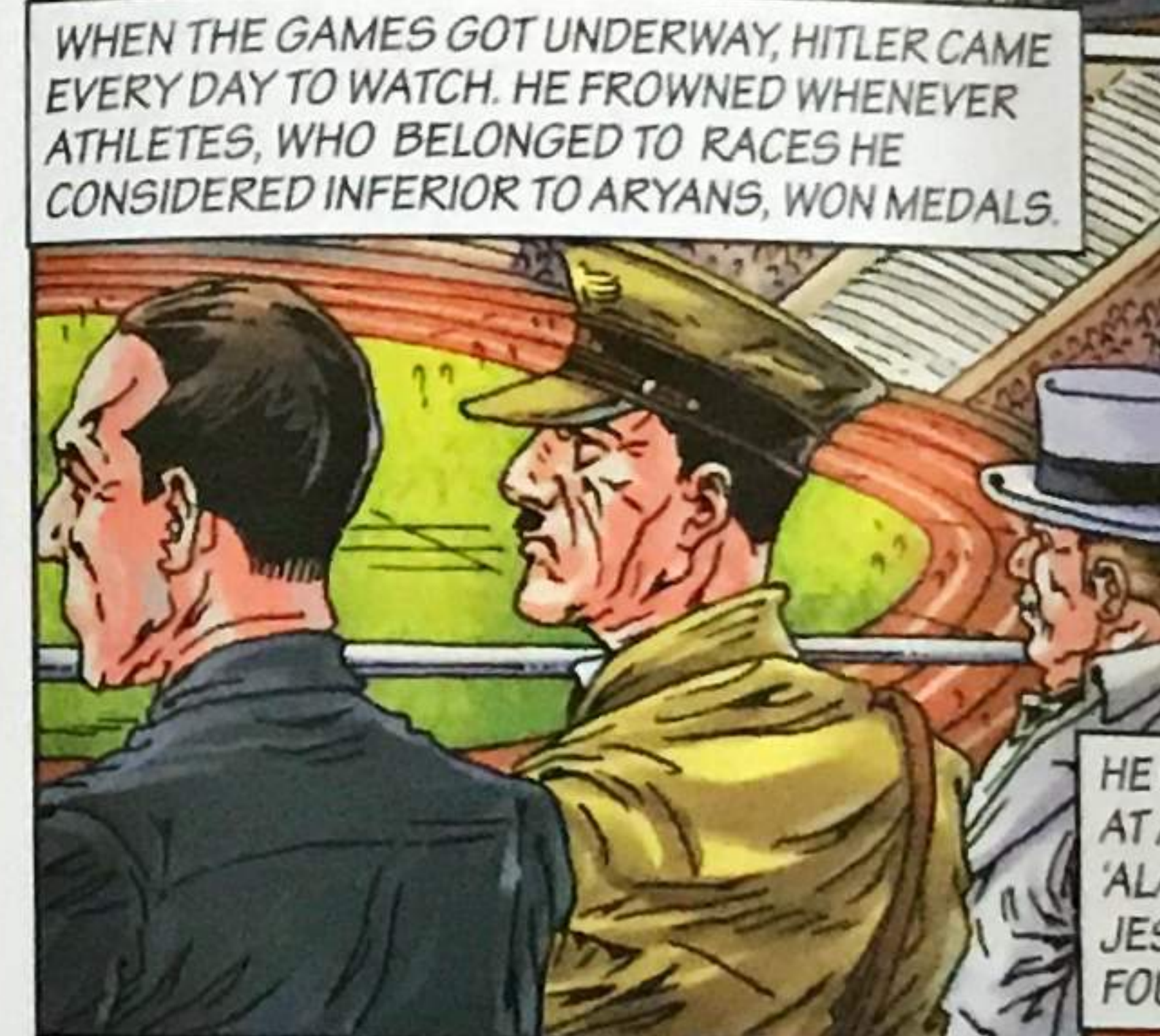
TO OUTDO THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPICS, A HUGE STADIUM WITH A SEATING CAPACITY OF OVER 1,00,000 WAS BUILT AND THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE HAD UP-TO-DATE FITTINGS AND FACILITIES FOR THE ATHLETES.

A TORCH RELAY FROM THE SITE OF THE ANCIENT GAMES IN OLYMPIA, GREECE, TO THE STADIUM IN BERLIN, GAVE AN ORIGINAL TOUCH TO THE OPENING CEREMONY.

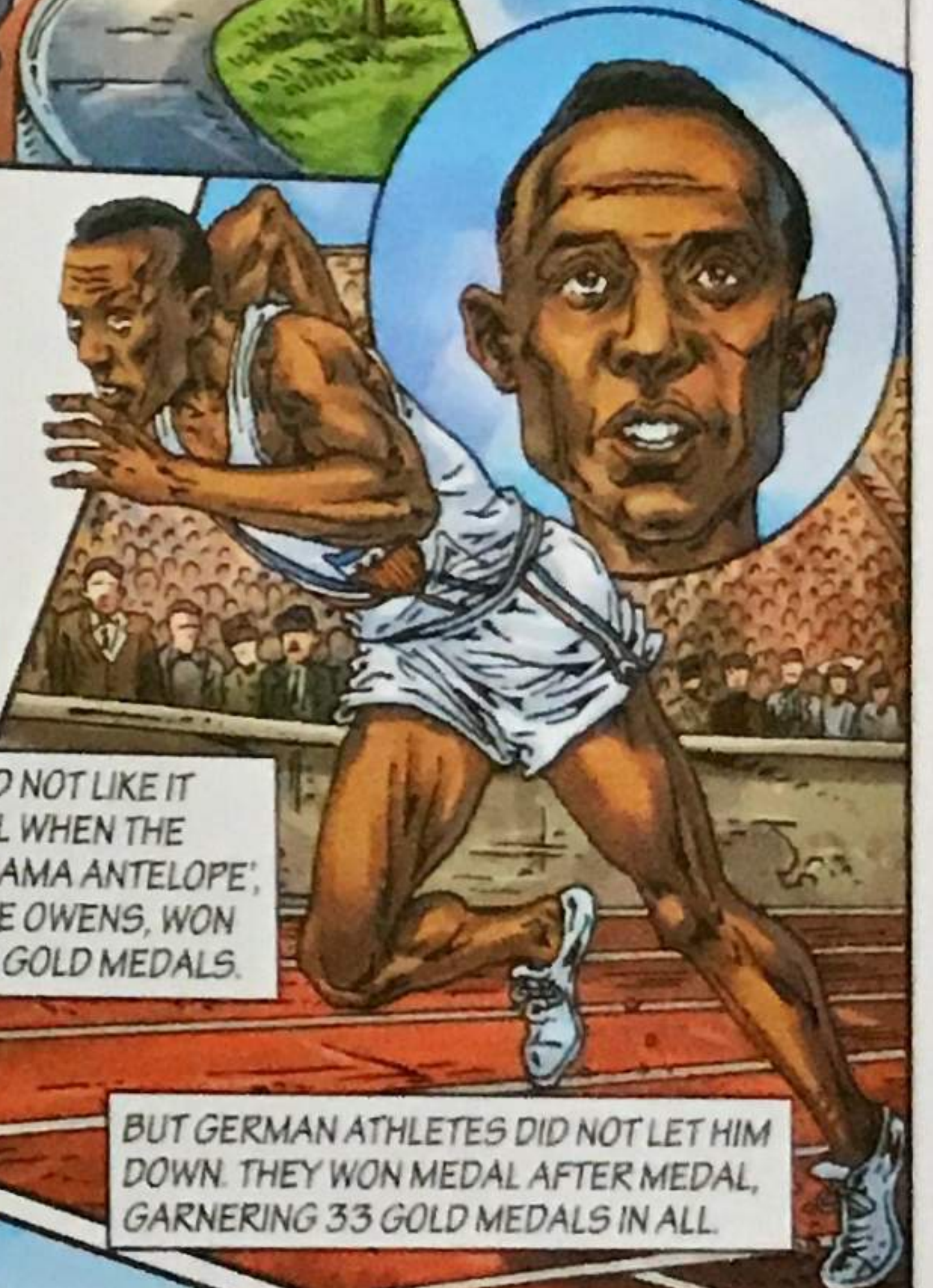
THESE WERE ALSO THE FIRST OLYMPIC GAMES TO BE TELEVIEWED. TWENTY-FIVE LARGE SCREENS WERE SET UP THROUGHOUT BERLIN, ALLOWING THE LOCAL PEOPLE TO SEE THE GAMES FOR FREE. IN INDIA, THE PHILIPS RADIO COMPANY LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE SALES OF NEW MODELS OF PHILIPS RADIOS WHICH THE COMPANY CLAIMED WERE BEST SUITED TO CATCH THE BROADCASTS FROM BERLIN.



WHEN THE GAMES GOT UNDERWAY, HITLER CAME EVERY DAY TO WATCH. HE FROWNED WHENEVER ATHLETES, WHO BELONGED TO RACES HE CONSIDERED INFERIOR TO ARYANS, WON MEDALS.



HE DID NOT LIKE IT AT ALL WHEN THE 'ALABAMA ANTELOPE', JESSE OWENS, WON FOUR GOLD MEDALS.



BUT GERMAN ATHLETES DID NOT LET HIM DOWN. THEY WON MEDAL AFTER MEDAL, GARNERING 33 GOLD MEDALS IN ALL.



GERMANY WOULD EVENTUALLY TOP THE MEDALS TALLY WITH 89 MEDALS, FOLLOWED BY THE U.S.



THERE WERE ELEVEN TEAMS COMPETING FOR THE HOCKEY MEDALS (THREE COUNTRIES DROPPED OUT AT THE LAST MOMENT). GERMANY BEAT AFGHANISTAN AND DENMARK TO REACH THE TOP OF THEIR GROUP.



WE ARE INVINCIBLE!

GERMAN GOALIE, TITO WARNHOLTZ, WAS KNOWN FOR HIS AGGRESSIVE PLAY.

THE INDIANS TOO WON ALL THEIR LEAGUE MATCHES - AGAINST HUNGARY, THE U.S. AND JAPAN - AND REACHED THE SEMI-FINAL WHERE THEY WERE PITTED AGAINST THE FORMIDABLE FRENCH.



THE INDIAN TEAM HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE ARRIVAL OF I.A.S. DARA, WITH YOUNGER BROTHER ROOP SINGH ON HIS LEFT AND DARA ON HIS RIGHT, DHYAN CHAND TORE THROUGH THE FRENCH DEFENCES, AGAIN AND AGAIN, TO HIT IN FOUR GOALS. ROOP SINGH AND DARA NETTED TWO EACH. THE FRENCH NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT THEM, EVENTUALLY LOSING 10-NIL!

THE HOCKEY FINAL WAS HELD ON THE MORNING OF THE LAST DAY OF THE GAMES, 15 AUGUST, 1936. THE GERMANS WERE CONFIDENT OF WINNING. THE GERMAN PRESS WAS FULL OF PRAISE FOR GERMAN VICTORIES IN THE LEAGUE MATCHES AND PREDICTED THE END OF INDIA'S GOLDEN RUN IN THE OLYMPICS. AS THE INDIANS GOT READY TO GO OUT ONTO THE FIELD -



BOYS, WAIT! REMEMBER YOU'RE GOING OUT THERE TO PLAY FOR...



...YOUR COUNTRY!



\*THE FLAG PANKAJ GUPTA SECRETLY CARRIED WAS THE INDIAN TRICOLOUR AND NOT THE OFFICIAL FLAG OF BRITISH INDIA.



IT WAS A CLASH BETWEEN THE 'INVINCIBLES', AS THE GERMANS CALLED THEMSELVES, AND THE 'DREAM TEAM', AS HOCKEY HISTORIANS WOULD LATER DESCRIBE THE INDIAN SIDE. THE GERMANS PLAYED AS IF THEY WERE FATED TO WIN, USING TACTICS THEY HAD COPIED FROM THE INDIANS.

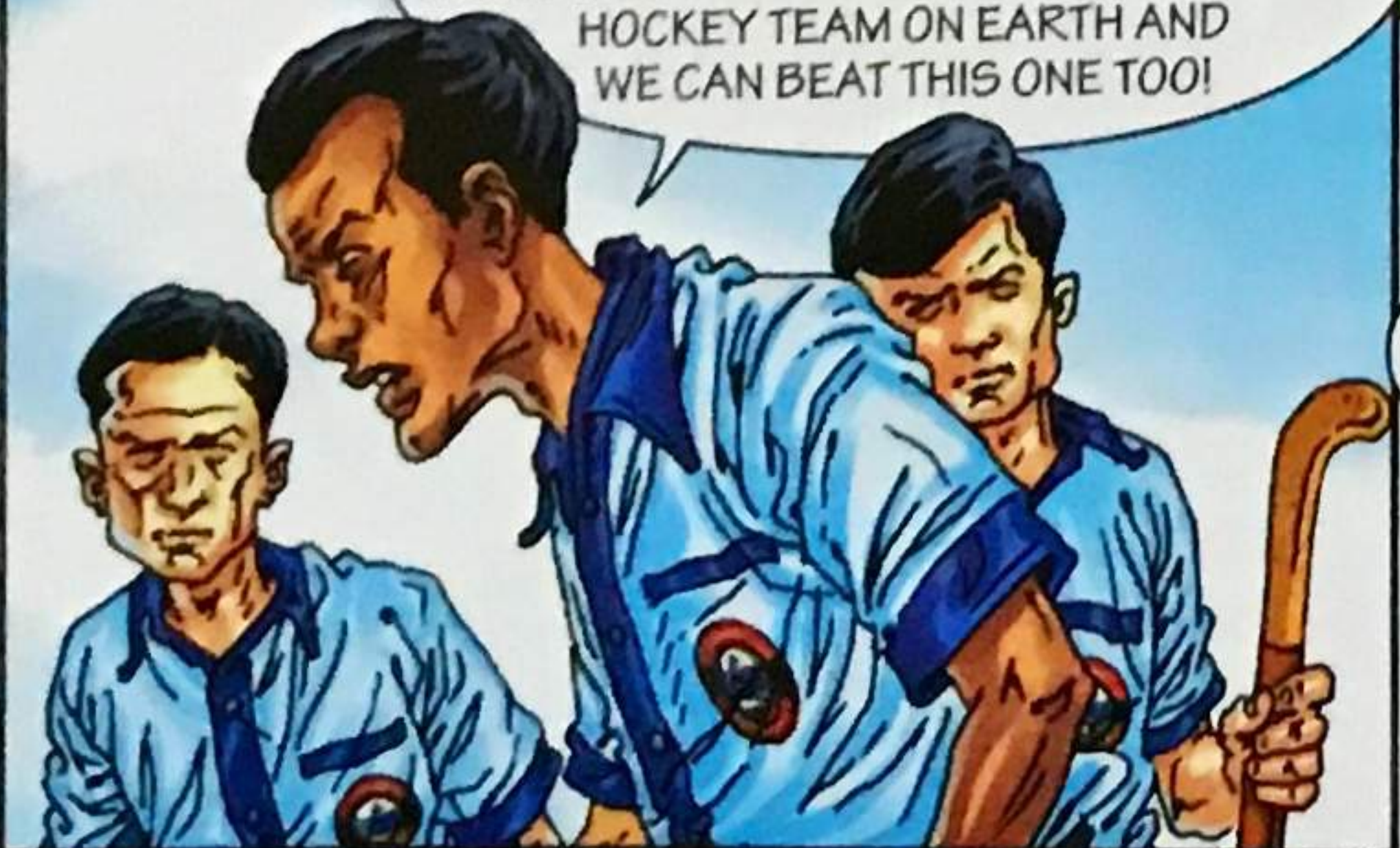


IN THE SECOND HALF, DHYAN SHOOK HIMSELF, OUT OF THE STUPOR HE SEEMED TO HAVE FALLEN INTO, AND TOOK CHARGE.

THE INDIANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, PERHAPS OVERAWED BY THE CONFIDENCE OF THEIR GERMAN COUNTERPARTS, PLAYED AS IF THEY WERE FATED TO LOSE, TO THE GREAT DISMAY OF THE THOUSANDS OF INDIANS WHO HAD COME TO WATCH THE MATCH FROM ALL OVER EUROPE. THE GERMAN SPECTATORS INCLUDED HITLER, PROPAGANDA MINISTER JOSEPH GOEBBELS, HERMANN GÖRING AND OTHER TOP NAZI OFFICIALS. IN THE FIRST HALF, DHYAN FAILED TO SCORE ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS AND ONCE WHEN HE SCORED HE WAS DECLARED OFF-SIDE.



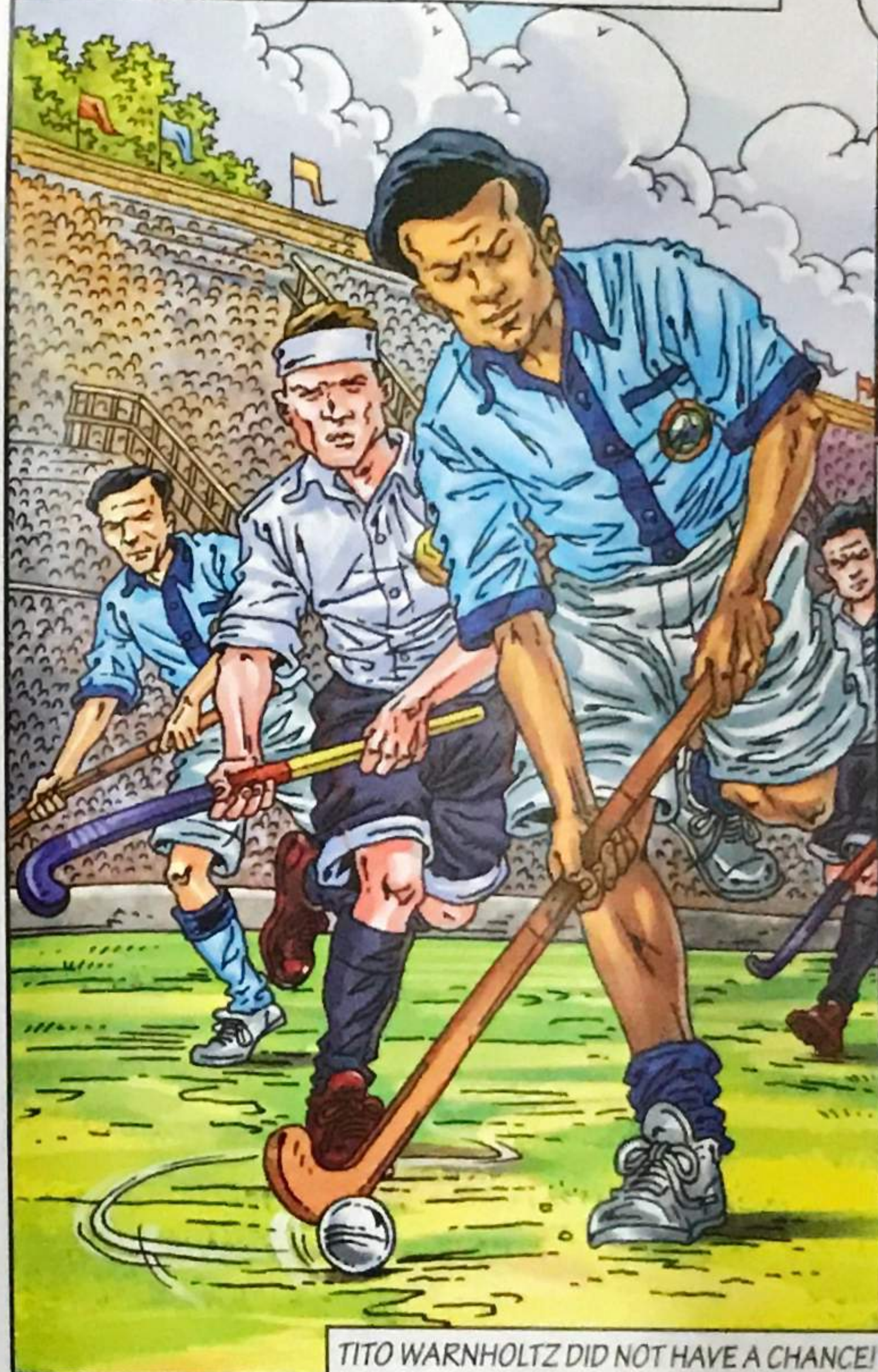
WHY ARE WE PLAYING LIKE A SECOND TEAM? WE'RE CHAMPIONS! WE'VE DEFEATED EVERY HOCKEY TEAM ON EARTH AND WE CAN BEAT THIS ONE TOO!



INDIA! INDIA!

WE MUST WIN THIS ONE FOR MOTHER INDIA!

HE DISCARDED HIS SPIKES AND LEGGINGS AND PUT ON RUBBER-SOLED SHOES. LATCHING ON TO A BALL THAT WAS PASSED TO HIM, HE STREAKED DOWN THE FIELD WITH IT.



TITO WARNHOLTZ DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE!



THAT'S AMAZING! THE BALL SEEMS TO BE STUCK TO HIS STICK!

THE GOAL GALVANISED THE REST OF THE TEAM INTO ACTION. FOUR MORE GOALS WERE SLAMMED IN WITHIN THE NEXT TEN MINUTES!



THE GERMANS BEGAN TO SHOW SIGNS OF DESPERATION.



CHAND IS THEIR DRIVING FORCE!

THE ONLY WAY TO BLUNT THEIR ATTACK IS TO GET HIM OUT OF THE WAY!

IT APPEARS TO ME THAT WE'VE BEEN PLAYING TOO GENTLY!





ANOTHER INDIAN FORAY INTO THE GERMAN GOAL BROUGHT DHYAN INTO THE D...



GOALKEEPER TITO WARNHOLTZ SHOWED UNWARRANTED AGGRESSION IN WARDING OFF THE GOAL.



BLEEDING PROFUSELY AND WITH A TOOTH KNOCKED OUT, DHYAN HAD TO BE RUSHED AWAY FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION.





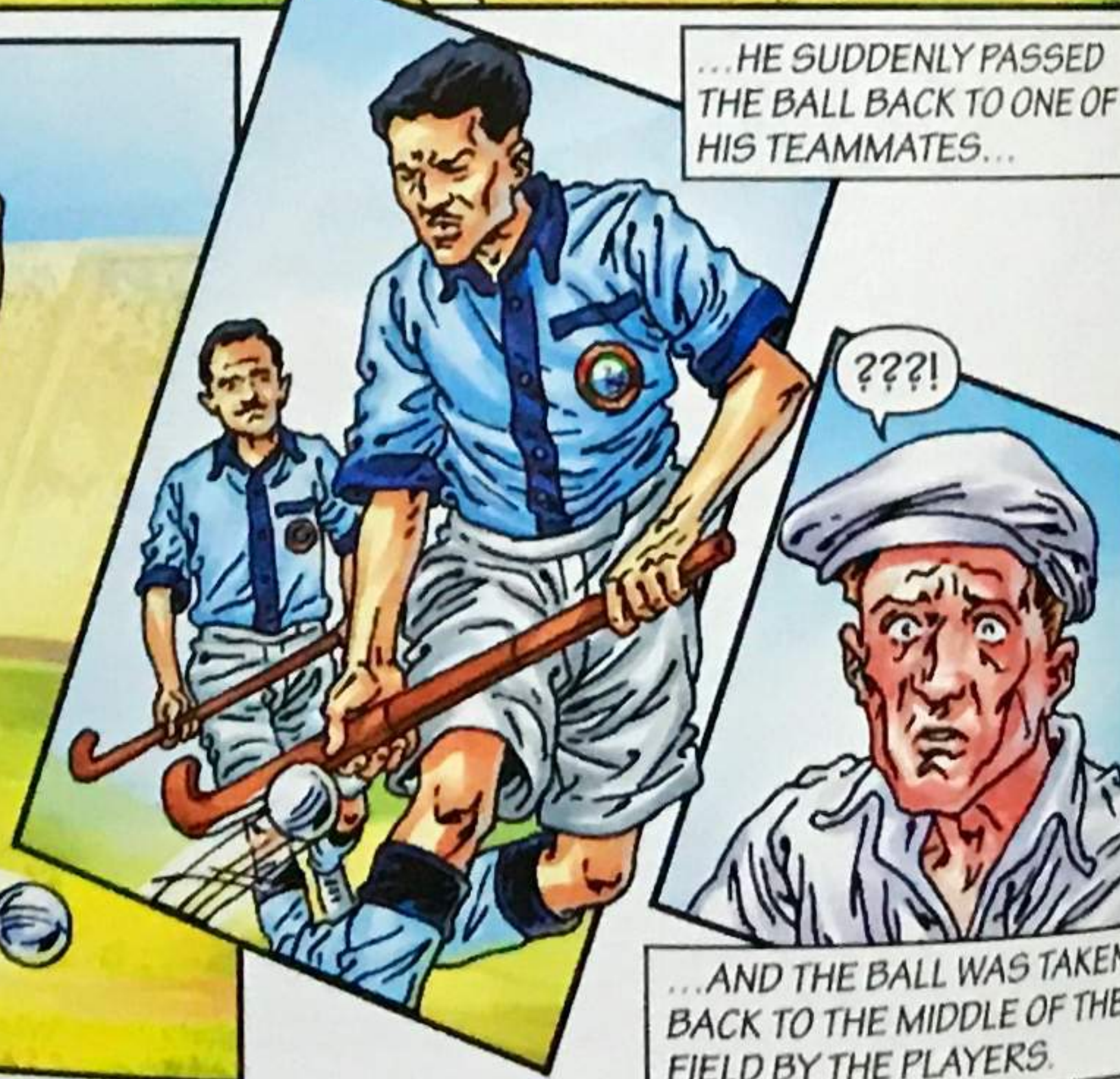
SOON, DHYAN CHAND WAS THUNDERING TOWARDS THE GERMAN GOAL ONCE AGAIN ...



... BUT WHEN HE REACHED THE D AND HAD A CLEAR CHANCE TO SCORE ...



... HE SUDDENLY PASSED THE BALL BACK TO ONE OF HIS TEAMMATES ...



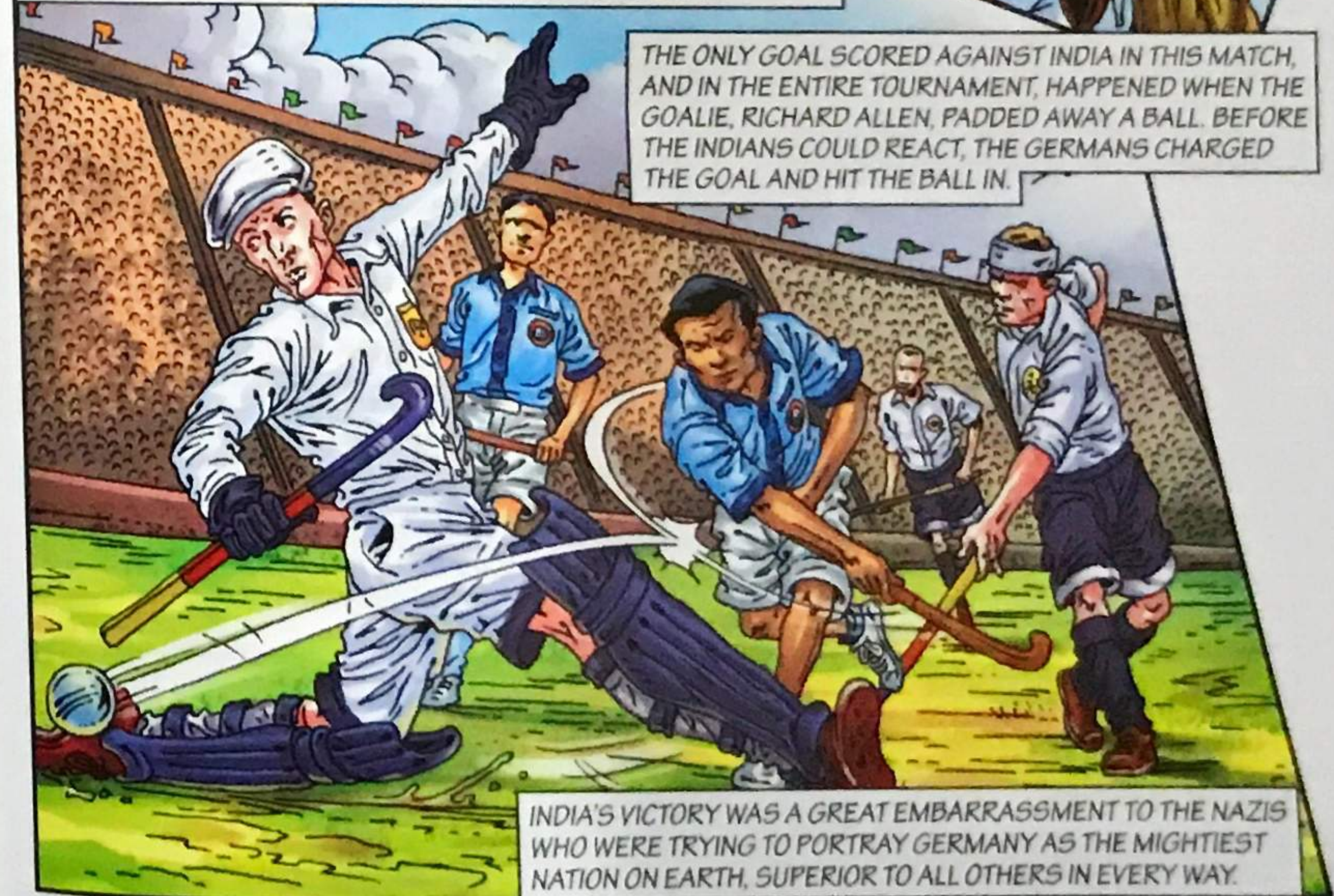
... AND THE BALL WAS TAKEN BACK TO THE MIDDLE OF THE FIELD BY THE PLAYERS.

THE INDIANS DID THIS AGAIN AND AGAIN, TAKING THE BALL UP TO THE MOUTH OF THE GOALPOST AND THEN TAKING IT BACK WITHOUT SCORING, LEAVING THE GERMAN PLAYERS AND THE SPECTATORS BAFFLED!



PERHAPS REALISING THAT THE GERMAN HOCKEY TEAM HAD NO CHANCE OF ADDING TO HIS COUNTRY'S TALLY OF GOLD MEDALS, HITLER ABRUPTLY LEFT THE STADIUM.

HAVING DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY COULD SCORE AT WILL, DHYAN AND DARA PUT IN ONE GOAL EACH TOWARDS THE END OF PLAY TO HAND THE GERMANS A CRUSHING DEFEAT: 8 GOALS TO 1.



THE ONLY GOAL SCORED AGAINST INDIA IN THIS MATCH, AND IN THE ENTIRE TOURNAMENT, HAPPENED WHEN THE GOALIE, RICHARD ALLEN, PADDED AWAY A BALL. BEFORE THE INDIANS COULD REACT, THE GERMANS CHARGED THE GOAL AND HIT THE BALL IN.

INDIA'S VICTORY WAS A GREAT EMBARRASSMENT TO THE NAZIS WHO WERE TRYING TO PORTRAY GERMANY AS THE MIGHTIEST NATION ON EARTH, SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHERS IN EVERY WAY.



DHYAN RECEIVED A HERO'S WELCOME WHEREVER HE WENT AFTER THE GAMES BUT THE ONE THAT REALLY WARMED HIS HEART WAS THE WELCOME ACCORDED HIM BY HIS HOMETOWN, JHANSI, WHERE HE SPENT A FEW DAYS BEFORE REJOINING HIS REGIMENT.

MANY YEARS EARLIER HE HAD FOUNDED THE JHANSI HEROES HOCKEY CLUB AND MEMBERS OF THE CLUB, STANDING ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ROAD FORMED AN ARC OF HOCKEY STICKS FOR HIM TO PASS THROUGH.



THE BERLIN GAMES WERE THE LAST OLYMPICS IN WHICH HE PLAYED. THERE WERE NO OLYMPICS IN 1940 OR 1944 BECAUSE OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. DHYAN CHAND WAS PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT IN 1943, BUT BRITISH OFFICERS, FEARING FOR HIS SAFETY, REFRAINED FROM SENDING HIM TO THE FRONTLINES WITH HIS REGIMENT. HE WAS PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN IN THE ARMY SOON AFTER INDEPENDENCE. IN LATE 1947, HE WAS CALLED OUT OF SEMI-RETIREMENT TO LEAD AN INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM TO EAST AFRICA (THE AFRICANS INSISTED THAT HE SHOULD BE IN THE TEAM). THOUGH NOW IN HIS 40S, DHYAN DID NOT DISAPPOINT THE AFRICAN SPECTATORS WHO TURNED OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS TO WATCH HIM PLAY, SCORING 61 GOALS IN 22 MATCHES.

THIS WAS THE LAST INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCE OF ONE OF INDIA'S GREATEST SPORTSMEN, KNOWN THE WORLD OVER AS THE 'HOCKEY WIZARD'.

THE BRILLIANCE OF HIS PLAY MESMERISED SPECTATORS ALL OVER THE GLOBE AND HELPED TO POPULARISE HOCKEY EVERYWHERE, ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE, JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND. HE RETIRED FROM THE ARMY IN 1951 WITH THE RANK OF MAJOR.

# A Man to Admire!

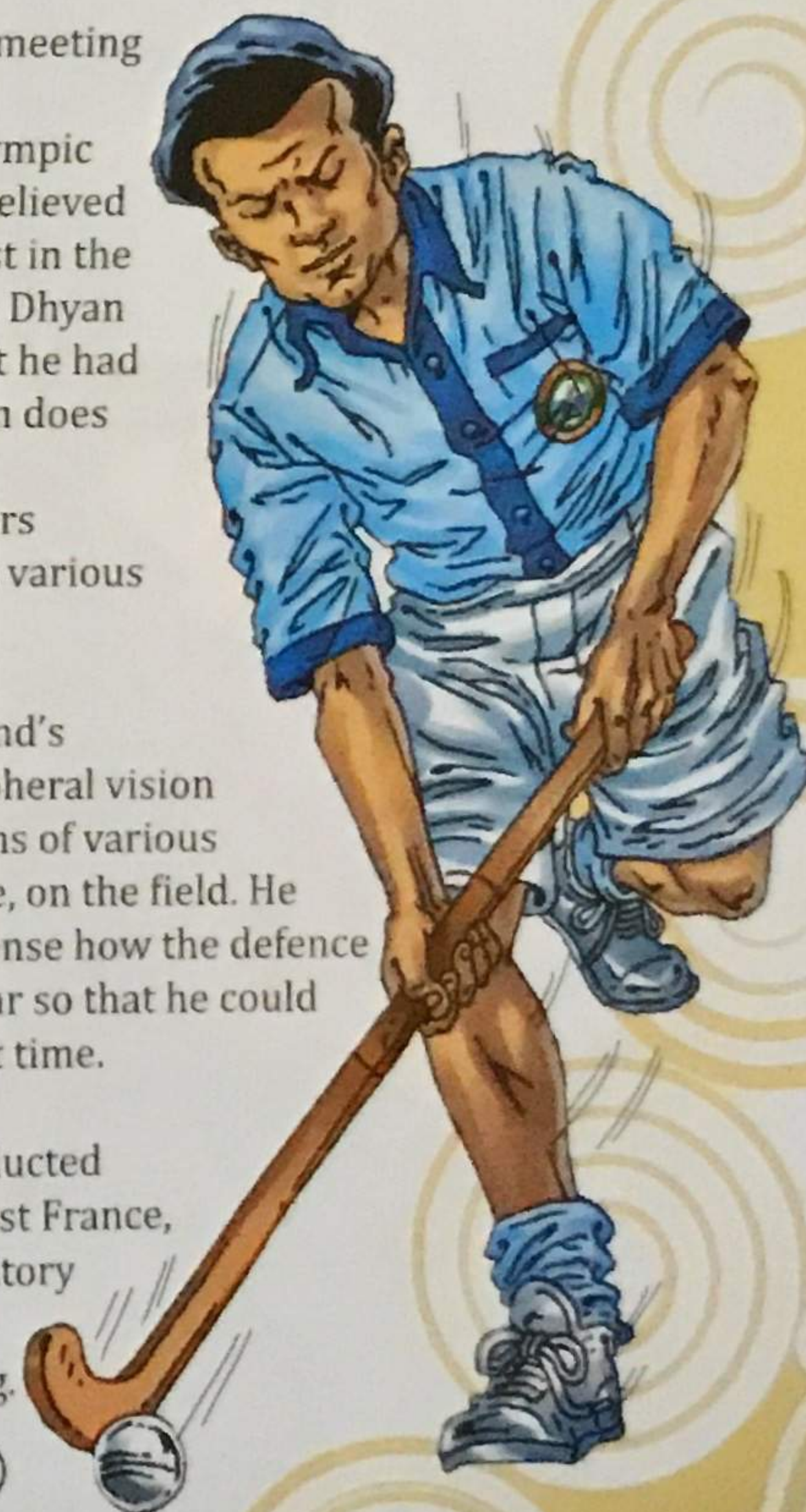
During a match in the 1926 army tour of New Zealand, Dhyan Chand's stick broke and he threw it away. His fans scrambled to retrieve it. It is said that, almost half a century later, when Dhyan Chand's son, Ashok Kumar, was playing in New Zealand, an elderly man came up to him and, uncovering a piece of tissue paper, showed him a splinter of wood. "It's from your dad's hockey stick!" said the man, proudly, "I was a boy then and when he threw away his stick I managed to get this piece!"

There are many accounts of Dhyan Chand's meeting with Adolf Hitler which is supposed to have happened a day after the India-Germany Olympic hockey final which India won 8-1. Hitler is believed to have offered the hockey wizard a high post in the German army if he relocated to that country. Dhyan purportedly refused the offer explaining that he had no desire to leave the land of his birth. Dhyan does not mention any meeting with Hitler in his autobiography *Goal* but one of his biographers says he spoke about it to family members on various occasions.

According to Keshav Dutt, one of Dhyan Chand's teammates, Dhyan had unusually wide peripheral vision which enabled him to note the exact positions of various teammates and opponents, at any given time, on the field. He also seemed to have an uncanny ability to sense how the defence was forming and where the gaps would occur so that he could position himself at the right spot at the right time.

Even on the hockey field, Dhyan Chand conducted himself like a soldier. In the semi-final against France, he suddenly yelled, "Humko dusman ki territory par kabja karna hai!" and led his men in a charge that left the French defenders gaping.

\*We need to capture the enemy's territory!





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